

Case No. SCSL-2003-01-T

**THE PROSECUTOR OF  
THE SPECIAL COURT  
V.  
CHARLES GHANKAY TAYLOR**

WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2008  
9.30 A.M.  
TRIAL

TRIAL CHAMBER II

**Before the Judges:**

Justice Teresa Doherty, Presiding  
Justice Julia Sebutinde  
Justice Richard Lussick  
Justice Al Hadji Malick Sow, Alternate

**For Chambers:**

Mr William Romans  
Ms Doreen Kiggundu

**For the Registry:**

Ms Rachel Irura  
Mr Vincent Tishakwa

**For the Prosecution:**

Ms Brenda J Hollis  
Ms Leigh Lawrie  
Mr Alain Werner  
Mr Nicholas Koumjian

**For the accused Charles Ghankay  
Taylor:**

Mr Courtenay Griffiths QC  
Mr Terry Munyard  
Mr Morris Anyah

1 Wednesday, 23 January 2008

2 [Open session]

3 [The accused present]

4 [Upon commencing at 9.30 a.m.]

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: I note one change of appearance,  
6 Mr Koumjian, on your bench.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, your Honour. For the Prosecution today,  
8 Alain Werner, Leigh Lawrie and myself Nicholas Koumjian.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Anyah?

10 MR ANYAH: Good morning, your Honours, Madam President.  
11 For the Defence today Morris Anyah as well as Courtenay Griffiths  
12 QC for Charles Ghankay Taylor.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: If there are no other matters I will  
14 remind the witness of his oath and we will proceed.

15 Mr Witness, you recall that you swore to tell the truth  
16 yesterday. That oath is still binding on you and you must answer  
17 questions truthfully. Do you understand?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 WITNESS: ABU KEITA [On former oath]

20 EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR KOUMJIAN: [Continued]

21 Q. Sir, yesterday afternoon you told us that you received a  
22 position in the interim government of President Ruth Perry. What  
23 was the position that you received?

24 A. I received assistant superintendent.

25 Q. For which area or county?

26 A. For Lofa County.

27 Q. Can you describe briefly what your duties were in that  
28 position?

29 A. My duty was to accept the refugees from Guinea to come back

1 into Lofa County for resettlement and then --

2 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness speak  
3 louder, please.

4 MR KOUMJIAN:

5 Q. Sir, perhaps you could repeat that and try to speak a bit  
6 louder?

7 A. I said my job was to encourage the refugees from Guinea to  
8 come back to Liberia and to settle in their local villages in  
9 Lofa County and then if somebody - if somebody - bridges, we  
10 support them, we face them around Mano bridge.

11 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, you said if somebody  
12 breaches the what?

13 THE WITNESS: Some of the bridges that were broken, to fix  
14 them.

15 MR KOUMJIAN:

16 Q. Okay, so this was to repair bridges that had been damaged.  
17 This was part of your duties, sir?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. When you received that appointment did you get any paper?

20 A. Yes, I had a paper with effect to that, sir, and I gave the  
21 paper to the Prosecution, sir, the letter of appointment from the  
22 council of state from Ruth.

23 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I would ask that the witness be  
24 given tab 25 which for the record - first, I'm sorry, I would ask  
25 that it be marked for identification. For the record it is a  
26 single piece of paper entitled, "The Council of State, Liberia  
27 National Transitional Government, Republic of Liberia." It's  
28 dated January 29, 1997 addressed, "Dear Mr Keita" and signed by  
29 Ruth Sando Perry. Can I ask that that be given an MFI number,

1 please?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Has it be shown to the witness?

3 MR KOUMJIAN: No, I was requesting the number before it was  
4 shown to the witness, your Honour. Obviously it's up to your  
5 Honours, but my reasoning is that if we're searching the  
6 transcript to find the testimony relevant to a document it should  
7 be marked before it's shown to a witness.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Usually we have the witness identify the  
9 document first.

10 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay.

11 Q. Okay, sir, in front of you - and I believe your Honours can  
12 see this if everyone switches to document cam witness - is a  
13 document. You've already told us you did not receive any  
14 education. Do you recognise this document?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what is it?

17 A. It's a letter of appointment, sir.

18 Q. Is this the letter that you received and you gave to the  
19 Office of the Prosecution?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR KOUMJIAN: Would your Honours like me to read that  
22 letter on to the record?

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't think it's necessary. The  
24 signature at the bottom and the name at the bottom is not clear  
25 on my copy, is it clearer on the original?

26 MR KOUMJIAN: Perhaps the Court manager could distribute  
27 the original first to the Defence and then to the judges.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, we're having some difficulty  
29 reading parts of the second paragraph that both on the original

1 and on the copy are very faint, almost erased, so if you can at  
2 least read that second paragraph.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, we understand the second  
4 paragraph to read:

5 "Your preferment is based upon the recommendation from the  
6 leader of your organisation pursuant to the provisions of the  
7 ECOWAS agreements and by virtue of the executive powers vested in  
8 the Council of State."

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. The document will be marked  
10 for identification MFI-1.

11 I've just been reminded by my learned colleagues that we  
12 haven't actually moved away from the MFI list in the previous  
13 witness, so we will have to give this a continuation number.

14 MS IRURA: Your Honour, it would be MFI-16.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Adjust that to MFI-16.

16 MR KOUMJIAN:

17 Q. Sir, after - during the period of the transitional  
18 government were there elections held in Liberia?

19 A. Yes, we had elections in Liberia, sir.

20 Q. Were you involved in the elections at all?

21 A. Yes, I voted.

22 Q. Did you work for any candidate?

23 A. No, sir. I never campaigned for any candidate, sir.

24 Q. Do you recall which year the election was?

25 A. The election took place in 1997, sir.

26 Q. Did you recall who the candidates were, can you tell us now  
27 who some of the candidates were?

28 A. Yes. There was Charles Taylor, Alhaji Kromah, Ellen  
29 Johnson-Sirleaf, Togba-Nah Tipoteh. Those were some of the

1 candidates that I can remember.

2 Q. In regards --

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, we have a few new names  
4 there.

5 MR KOUMJIAN: The witness mentioned - I think the only new  
6 name that I caught was Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the last name is  
7 S-I-R-L-E-A-F.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: And there was one after that.

9 MR KOUMJIAN:

10 Q. Sir, did you mention a Mr Tipoteh?

11 A. Yes, Togba-Nah Tipoteh, sir.

12 Q. Togba-Nah, is that two names, two words, sir?

13 A. It's one name, sir. That was the name he used. Togba-Nah  
14 Tipoteh, sir.

15 MR KOUMJIAN: If your Honours would like me to make a guess  
16 I would make it T-U-B-A-N-A T-I-P-O-T-E-A.

17 Q. Did you witness any of the campaign for Charles Taylor  
18 during that election?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you recall any slogan that was used for Charles Taylor's  
21 campaign?

22 A. They had his last rally at the SKD where his supporters  
23 were using the leaflets and the slogan was, "You killed my  
24 mother, you killed my father, I will vote for you."

25 Q. What was the result of the election, who won?

26 A. The election at the end, when we had the voting at the end  
27 Charles Taylor won the elections.

28 Q. After the presidential elections in 1997 what happened to  
29 you, what job did you have then?

1 A. All armed forces of Liberia, AFL, we were recalled to  
2 report back to Camp Suffering to restructure the army.

3 Q. So you said all of you were recalled, AFL, do you mean  
4 based upon your record of having been a member of the AFL?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Where did you report?

7 A. We reported at the BTC barracks in Monrovia and we were all  
8 taken to Camp Suffering where the restructuring was taking place.

9 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, Camp Suffering is two words and  
10 the second word is like the English word suffering,

11 S-U-F-F-E-R-I-N-G. BTC barracks.

12 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I'm sorry to interrupt but I  
13 believe perhaps the witness means Camp Schiefflin which is --

14 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I don't believe so but I can  
15 clarify with the witness.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Interpreter, what exactly did the  
17 witness say, please.

18 THE INTERPRETER: That was exactly what the witness said;  
19 Camp Suffering.

20 MR KOUMJIAN:

21 Q. Sir, is Camp Suffering the same as Camp Schiefflin?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay, thank you. At Camp Suffering did you receive any  
24 training or what occurred there?

25 A. The restructuring was taking place. It was not a training.

26 Q. When you were recalled to the AFL did you receive a rank?

27 A. Yes. After the restructuring I was appointed as major.

28 Q. Were you then given an assignment?

29 A. I was assigned at the headquarters. That is BTC.

1 Q. Is that in Monrovia?

2 A. Yes, that is in Monrovia.

3 Q. Now some time after you were recalled to the AFL did  
4 fighting break out in Monrovia?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you briefly explain what that was about - what that was  
7 about?

8 A. Fighting broke out on Camp Johnson Road because Roosevelt  
9 Johnson was appointed as minister of - as a minister in Taylor's  
10 government and then he went on sick leave. When he came back he  
11 was at Camp Johnson Road and then he saw Joe Wally who was a  
12 former bodyguard to the late Samuel Doe, so he was at Roosevelt  
13 Johnson's house and then his - they ordered that they he was to  
14 be arrested.

15 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I believe the spelling I've seen  
16 is Joe Wally, W-A-L-L-Y.

17 Q. In the fighting related to the return of Roosevelt Johnson  
18 who was fighting on each side?

19 A. Well, it was the SSU and the SSS.

20 Q. Okay. We have to explain to everyone here what those are.  
21 When you say the SSU what do you mean? What is the SSU?

22 A. The SSU was a special unit formed by Charles Taylor who  
23 were responsible at the mansion and Chucky was the commander and  
24 we had Momoh Jibba also and then Benjamin Yeaten was SSS director  
25 and they went on for the operations at Camp Johnson Road. And  
26 their mission was to arrest Roosevelt Johnson and then Roosevelt  
27 Johnson escaped the arrest and went to the American embassy.  
28 That caused a lot of shoot-outs. Then from there I was also  
29 arrested by one bodyguard of the SSU who was called PYJ and he



1 took me to Saw Beach and I was in detention there.

2 Q. Okay, Mr Witness, thank you. I want to take this a bit  
3 more slowly. First you mentioned Chucky. Is that Chucky Taylor,  
4 the son of the then President Taylor?

5 A. The son of Charles Taylor, sir.

6 MR KOUMJIAN: And I believe we've previously had a spelling  
7 of Momoh Jibba, but I believe it's M-O-M-O-H J-E-B-B-A.

8 Q. Now you mentioned sir a bodyguard who arrested you. Can  
9 you just repeat that name slowly, please?

10 A. He was called PYJ.

11 Q. Just the initials; is that right?

12 A. That was the only name I know him for.

13 Q. Who were the forces - you mentioned the SSU and the SSS who  
14 were part of Charles Taylor's forces, who were they fighting  
15 against in that battle in Monrovia?

16 A. They were fighting against Roosevelt Johnson to arrest him.

17 Q. Where were you when you were arrested?

18 A. They arrested me on the street around Looking Town Cinema.

19 Q. Had you been involved in the fighting?

20 A. I was not involved in any fighting, but they said I had a  
21 meeting with Roosevelt Johnson.

22 Q. Now at any time prior to your arrest or in the few weeks  
23 prior to your arrest had you met with Roosevelt Johnson?

24 A. Yes, I met with Roosevelt Johnson.

25 Q. Can you explain what happened at that meeting?

26 A. Roosevelt Johnson called both parties, the former ULIMO-J  
27 and those of us who were members of the former ULIMO-K. He said  
28 we should have a ceremony together because we fought against each  
29 other, we killed each other, and he said the war was over so he

1 said we should be one. That was the meeting I had with him.

2 Q. Was this before the fighting or during the fighting?

3 A. It took place before the fighting. That was why I was  
4 arrested, because they said they saw me there.

5 Q. You said you were taken to Saw Beach Prison and that's  
6 S-A-W. Where is Saw Beach Prison?

7 A. Saw Beach Prison is at the back of BTC.

8 Q. At the back of the barracks in Monrovia?

9 A. Yes, by the side of the barracks.

10 Q. About how long were you kept in Saw Beach Prison?

11 A. I was in Saw Beach for one week.

12 THE INTERPRETER: Could the witness come back to that area,  
13 please.

14 MR KOUJIAN:

15 Q. Sorry, sir, we didn't get your answer. You said you were  
16 in Saw Beach. Please continue?

17 A. I said I was taken to Saw Beach, I was there for one week  
18 when - and I was not charged to go to court, I was just in  
19 detention there. And later I was freed by one SSS director for  
20 operation who was Varmuyan Sherif. He took me to Musa Cisse's  
21 house at Congo Town. Then Musa Cisse spoke to me and he said,  
22 "Look, Abu, you are a Mandingo, I'm a Mandingo." He said, "The  
23 war is over" and he said, "If you don't want to see Taylor's  
24 government then you are doing - you are doing that to yourself."  
25 He said, "We have already won the elections." He said it is  
26 better for me to cooperate with them. Then I said --

27 Q. Okay, why don't you just finish what you said and then I  
28 will go back and ask you some more questions about this?

29 A. No, you can carry on with your questioning.

1 Q. Thank you. Now you said that Varmuyan Sherif came to the  
2 prison; is that correct?

3 A. Yes, at Saw Beach.

4 Q. Was he with anyone else?

5 A. No, he only had his bodyguards around him, the SSS  
6 bodyguards.

7 Q. And then you said he took you out of the prison. Is that  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes, he took me out of the prisons and then took me to Musa  
10 Cisse's residence at Congo Town.

11 MR KOUMJIAN: Musa Cisse I believe has been spelled before,  
12 but it's M-U-S-A and the spelling of Cisse in Liberia is  
13 C-I-S-S-E. I have noted that in the transcript it's sometimes  
14 spelled with an S which is more a Sierra Leone spelling. But  
15 it's Cisse. And Congo Town, C-O-N-G-O.

16 Q. When you got to Musa Cisse's house who else was present  
17 there?

18 A. I left Musa Cisse's, I was there at Musa Cisse's house when  
19 Benjamin Yeaten, the SSS director, he was called by Musa Cisse  
20 and then he came and then he said, "Keita, Pa Musa has already  
21 spoken about you. So that is it, you have to cooperate." Then I  
22 said, "Okay chief, I have no problem with that, sir." I said, "I  
23 will cooperate."

24 Q. Okay, I just want to make sure that I understand. Is this  
25 still the same day that you were taken out of the prison by  
26 Varmuyan Sherif?

27 A. Yes, sir. That same day, sir.

28 Q. When you spoke to Musa Cisse the first time at his house  
29 who else was present?

1 A. Musa Cisse, Varmuyan Sherif, Benjamin Yeaten and one other  
2 police director who was called Papa Kuyateh. And Musa Cisse's,  
3 one of his brother who was called Pa Morrie, he was a police  
4 officer.

5 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, Kuyateh is K-U-Y-A-T-E-H. And  
6 I believe he said the brother of Musa Cisse Pa, P-A, Morrie and I  
7 believe the spelling would be M-O-R-R-I-E.

8 Q. What happened after you met Benjamin Yeaten at Musa Cisse's  
9 house?

10 A. They spoke to me and said I have now become a free man and  
11 then from there they left me and I was taken back to my house.

12 Q. Did you know at that time - can you tell us what position  
13 Musa Cisse had at that time?

14 A. Musa Cisse was the protocol officer of Charles Taylor and  
15 then his operations name was Gangay Charo.

16 MR KOUMJIAN: And Charo I believe is C-H-A-R-O.

17 Q. Sir, do you know what ethnicity or tribe Musa Cisse belongs  
18 to?

19 A. He told me he was Mandingo.

20 Q. You also mentioned Benjamin Yeaten. Did you know what  
21 position he held at that time?

22 A. At that time Benjamin Yeaten was the SS director.

23 Q. After they took you to your house what happened?

24 A. I was there and then a week later I saw Mazhar, Sampson and  
25 Jungle and say said we should go to Musa Cisse's house. And then  
26 we drove to Musa Cisse's house. From there we were taken back to  
27 Benjamin Yeaten's residence, at the back of President Taylor's  
28 house down the hole.

29 Q. Okay, you mentioned someone named Mazhar. The spelling,

1 I've seen various, but one spelling I've seen is M-A-R-Z-H-A-R.

2 Do you know another name he was known by?

3 A. That's the only name I know him by. They called him  
4 Mazhar.

5 Q. Okay, have you ever heard of Zigzag?

6 A. Yes, that was his nickname, sir.

7 Q. You also mentioned someone named Sampson and someone named  
8 Jungle, are these two different people?

9 A. These are two different persons, sir.

10 Q. Can you tell us what positions at that time Mazhar, Sampson  
11 and Jungle held?

12 A. Mazhar was SS, Sampson was SS, a bodyguard to Benjamin  
13 Yeaten. Jungle was a bodyguard to Benjamin Yeaten.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, could we get clarification  
15 what SS means?

16 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes.

17 Q. Sir, you've used the word SS. Can you tell us again - what  
18 is SS when you use just the words SS?

19 A. The SS, the special - he was the SS director called  
20 Benjamin Yeaten. They were assigned at the mansion with  
21 Charles Taylor.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: That doesn't actually answer the  
23 question.

24 MR KOUMJIAN:

25 Q. Do you know what SS stood for?

26 A. SS, it's the special unit at the VIP.

27 Q. Do you know what their job was? You said at the Executive  
28 Mansion. What did they do at the Executive Mansion?

29 A. They were close to the President of the state.

1 Q. When you say close to the President, in what way were they  
2 close to the President, what were they to do for him?

3 A. The director - before you see the President you have to go  
4 through his office. He would open the door for you to see the  
5 President.

6 Q. Did they have any job to do besides opening doors; can you  
7 explain what their purpose was?

8 A. They were the SS at the - that was the only job I knew  
9 Benjamin Yeaten who was in charge of the man as close protection.

10 Q. Okay, thank you. When you say close protection now I think  
11 that helps us. Can you explain what you mean by close  
12 protection?

13 A. They were security. They always moved up and down as VIP.  
14 Wherever you saw the President you will see them around.

15 Q. So did Sampson, Jungle and Mazhar all report to the same  
16 person?

17 A. Yes, they were bodyguards to Benjamin Yeaten, sir.

18 Q. So you said about a week after the first meeting at Musa  
19 Cisse's house they came and picked you up and tell us what  
20 happened then?

21 A. Yes. We went down to Benjamin Yeaten's house. Then there  
22 was a meeting there where I saw Sam Bockarie of the RUF, I saw  
23 Eddie Kanneh. Then I saw the War Council leader of the RUF  
24 called SB Rogers, and the adjutant of the RUF who was Rashid and  
25 Benjamin Yeaten himself and then he asked me to join the RUF in  
26 Sierra Leone. Then I said, "No problem, sir." I said as long as  
27 that was an instruction from you, I said I would implement it,  
28 sir. So I asked him to allow me to prepare myself and then he  
29 accepted.

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I see the transcript, the  
2 LiveNote, has Eddie Kanneh, SB Rogers, I believe those are  
3 spelled correctly on the transcript.

4 Q. Sir, was there anyone else present at that meeting that you  
5 can recall. You mentioned Eddie Kanneh, you mentioned SB Rogers,  
6 you mentioned Sam Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten and Mr Rashid?

7 A. Yes, there was Montgomery and Varmuyan Sherif himself came  
8 and met us at the meeting.

9 MR KOUMJIAN: And Montgomery again appears to be spelled  
10 correctly in the LiveNote transcript.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, the name Sampson, is that  
12 spelled correctly in the transcript?

13 MR KOUMJIAN: I think I'm past that point but it's  
14 S-A-M-P-S-O-N. That's not on my screen:

15 Q. So, sir, after you agreed to join the RUF what happened  
16 then?

17 A. Then I said I should prepare myself and then we were driven  
18 from Benjamin Yeaten's house. That was the time I saw a  
19 satellite phone with Sam Bockarie and he said it was given to him  
20 by Benjamin Yeaten and then --

21 Q. I'm sorry, Mr Witness, because I think I've gone too fast.  
22 I want to go back to the meeting that you just told us about at  
23 Benjamin Yeaten's house. Was one person in charge of that  
24 meeting? Did one person seem to be the chair, the person in  
25 charge of the meeting?

26 A. It was Benjamin Yeaten who was the chair of that meeting.  
27 He was the commander of that meeting.

28 Q. Now he said - you said that he said you should go fight  
29 with the RUF. Did he explain why he was asking you to do that or

1 where he got that idea?

2 A. I don't have any idea other than the one he told me that I  
3 should join the brothers and I said that --

4 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
5 repeat his answer.

6 MR KOUMJIAN:

7 Q. Okay, sorry, we missed something. Can you just repeat your  
8 answer?

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, could you repeat your answer  
10 in full.

11 THE WITNESS: Please ask the question again.

12 MR KOUMJIAN:

13 Q. Did Benjamin Yeaten explain anything else to you when he  
14 said you should go join the RUF?

15 A. He said he wants a stand-by force to be in Sierra Leone so  
16 that I would be the commander of that troop to be based in Sierra  
17 Leone.

18 Q. Did he indicate whether you would be in command? You said  
19 the commander of that troop. What did he say about the troop  
20 that you're talking about?

21 A. He said I was going to be the commander of a troop that was  
22 going to be in Sierra Leone with Sam Bockarie.

23 Q. Do you recall if he gave a name for that unit, the troops?

24 A. He said the troop would be called the Scorpion unit and  
25 that I would be the commander to be based with Sam Bockarie in  
26 Sierra Leone.

27 Q. Did he indicate to you what plan he had for those troops,  
28 whether there were any operations planned?

29 A. He did not give me any details of the operation plans, sir.



1 Q. Was there any mention of any areas in Sierra Leone?

2 A. Areas, I said Sierra Leone.

3 Q. Did he indicate any particular areas of Sierra Leone such  
4 as - well, Port Loko. I'm just making up a name, witness, I  
5 don't want to give you --

6 A. He said we should be based in Buedu. Buedu in Kailahun  
7 District.

8 Q. And did he indicate whether they were planning any  
9 operations in any other areas?

10 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I wonder if counsel could  
11 clarify what he means by operations. My objection is vagueness.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, indeed, Mr Koumjian, that's becoming  
13 a technical word and it has many meanings.

14 MR KOUMJIAN:

15 Q. Sir, did he indicate any attacks were planned?

16 A. No, he said I should be based in Sierra Leone with Sam  
17 Bockarie.

18 Q. Did Benjamin Yeaten tell you if he had come up with this  
19 idea or if someone else had told him to send you to Sierra Leone?

20 A. He said he had planned with the boss who is Charles Taylor  
21 who had given him the instruction to send me to Sierra Leone.

22 Q. Now you mentioned the RUF and you also mentioned a person  
23 who was present named Eddie Kanneh. Who was Eddie Kanneh?

24 A. Eddie Kanneh is a Sierra Leonean and he was with the SLA.

25 Q. The Sierra Leone Army?

26 A. Yes, the Sierra Leone Army.

27 Q. Now was he with the Sierra Leone Army with the government  
28 of Sierra Leone at that time?

29 A. No.

1 Q. What was his job as you understood it?

2 A. At that time the AFRC had overthrown, so all of them were  
3 part of the People's Army and when the ECOMOG pushed them, that  
4 was how - that was how I met him and Sam Bockarie at Benjamin  
5 Yeaten's house. That was how I came to know him.

6 Q. Okay, thank you. Now you used the words People's Army.  
7 Can you again just explain to us what that term meant at that  
8 time?

9 A. It was the RUF and the SLA combined, so they called  
10 themselves the People's Army.

11 Q. At this meeting at Benjamin Yeaten's house did Eddie Kanneh  
12 speak about anything that you recall now?

13 A. Who?

14 Q. Eddie Kanneh.

15 A. Yes. Eddie Kanneh, Sam Bockarie said he will be the  
16 liaison officer between Sierra Leone and Liberia for the diamond  
17 business of the RUF. Then --

18 Q. Sorry, okay, go ahead, did you want to --

19 A. Yes, the next one was General Ibrahim Bah who --

20 Q. I think you're skipping ahead. I still have some questions  
21 about this meeting?

22 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: I'm sorry to interrupt, Mr Koumjian. The  
23 answer that the witness gave mentioned two names, Eddie Kanneh  
24 and Sam Bockarie. Now which of these would be the liaison  
25 officer, if you look at his answer on the screen.

26 THE WITNESS: Okay, it would be Eddie Kanneh.

27 MR KOUMJIAN:

28 Q. Now, sir, was there any discussion of any other RUF  
29 commanders who were not present at that meeting?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you explain?

3 A. That was Dennis Mingo, commonly called Superman.

4 Q. Who said something about Superman?

5 A. It was Sam Bockarie, commonly called Mosquito, he was the  
6 commander of the RUF at that time and then he said Dennis Mingo  
7 didn't want to take instructions from him. He was a man who was  
8 giving him problems within the command, and then Benjamin Yeaten  
9 said, he said he will address that issue. He said he will talk  
10 to Dennis Mingo.

11 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, Dennis Mingo is spelled as on  
12 the screen with two Ns. It's spelled differently in different  
13 parts of the screen, but Dennis, two Ns, Mingo M-I-N-G-O.

14 Q. Now you also mentioned a satellite phone. Can you describe  
15 that?

16 A. Yes, the satellite phone is a communication instrument. It  
17 was black - that was in a hand bag that you can hang on you. It  
18 was used for communication.

19 Q. Can you just give us an idea of the size of that satellite  
20 phone?

21 A. It's just like this computer that is in front of me but it  
22 can open up.

23 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, I believe the witness was  
24 referring to the computer screen in front of him which appears to  
25 me to be about 60 centimetres by 50 centimetres, something like  
26 that. I don't know if someone has a better estimate.

27 Q. Sir, what did you see happen with this satellite phone?

28 A. The satellite phone was with him, sir.

29 Q. With who?

- 1 A. With Sam Bockarie, sir.
- 2 Q. Did you see where he got it?
- 3 A. What?
- 4 Q. Did you see how Sam Bockarie got the phone?
- 5 A. He told me it had been given to him by the chief, Benjamin  
6 Yeaten.
- 7 Q. After this meeting at Musa Cisse's house where did you go  
8 next?
- 9 A. We moved - it was Benjamin Yeaten's house.
- 10 Q. Thank you for the correction. After the meeting at  
11 Benjamin Yeaten's house where did you go next?
- 12 A. We drove to the Boulevard Hotel in Monrovia by Sinkor and  
13 then General Adam who was there - can I continue?
- 14 MR KOUMJIAN: Firstly let me indicate that Boulevard Hotel  
15 appears to be spelled correctly in the transcript and the witness  
16 said by Sinkor. I believe that Sinkor is S-I-N-K-O-R.
- 17 Q. When you got to the hotel where did you go?
- 18 A. We went upstairs on the third floor where we met General  
19 Ibrahim Bah in the hotel.
- 20 Q. Was this the first time you met Ibrahim Bah?
- 21 A. Yes, that was the first time. I only heard the name but  
22 that was the first time to meet him in person.
- 23 Q. Can you describe him a bit?
- 24 A. He was a short, fat man. He is not tall.
- 25 Q. Did he have any accent?
- 26 A. He had the Gambian accent.
- 27 Q. Did he have any rank, did you ever learn whether he had any  
28 rank?
- 29 A. They called him General Ibrahim Bah. They said he was a

1 former fighter of the NPFL.

2 Q. What was discussed in the hotel room of General Bah?

3 A. The discussion was how best General Bah should ensure to  
4 find a buyer for the RUF diamonds and that also General Bah  
5 should help them to get a radio communication for the RUF,  
6 something they would use for propaganda, an FM station.

7 Q. Okay. Can you remember who else was in the room? What do  
8 you remember now about who else was present?

9 A. It was Ibrahim Bah, Eddie Kanneh, Sam Bockarie, Benjamin  
10 Yeaten and SB Rogers and Rashid and General Ibrahim's bodyguard  
11 they called General CR and myself. That was where I saw the  
12 first diamond with Sam Bockarie.

13 Q. Can you explain - well, first, your Honours, CR is the  
14 initials spelled correctly in the LiveNote. Can you explain  
15 where you saw these diamonds?

16 A. The diamonds were in that Boulevard Hotel in General  
17 Ibrahim Bah's room.

18 Q. You said you saw Bockarie with it. Can you explain that?

19 A. I saw him with diamonds. He was showing the diamond to  
20 Ibrahim Bah. That was the only one - that was the only thing I  
21 saw him do with the diamond.

22 Q. Okay, to be clear then you did not see him hand the  
23 diamonds over. Is that correct?

24 A. Yes, I did not see him give the diamond, but I saw him show  
25 the diamond.

26 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Interpreter, is that diamond in  
27 singular or diamonds in plural?

28 THE INTERPRETER: Singular. Singular.

29 THE WITNESS: Diamond, a mineral stone.

1 MR KOUMJIAN:

2 Q. Sir, are you saying one diamond or are you saying more than  
3 one?

4 A. More than one. More than one. More than 10 even.

5 Q. After the meeting with General Bah in the Boulevard Hotel  
6 where did you go?

7 A. We were around, we went back to another hotel where Sam  
8 Bockarie was staying which they called Kadija Hotel.

9 MR KOUMJIAN: I believe that's K-A-D-I-J-A.

10 Q. After going to the Kadija Hotel where did you go?

11 A. I was there with them all through the day and then later I  
12 left them in the afternoon. I went to my house to return, sir.

13 Q. Did you go anywhere with Sam Bockarie that day?

14 A. Yes, that happened in the night when Sam Bockarie was  
15 leaving to come back to Sierra Leone, sir.

16 Q. Please explain, what happened?

17 A. Benjamin Yeaten came, Sam Bockarie, Musa Cisse, SB Rogers,  
18 Eddie Kanneh and myself and then we drove from the hotel to White  
19 Flower where Charles Taylor was at his house. Then they opened  
20 the gate for us and then we went down the left-hand side. Then  
21 they opened the door on the left-hand side. Then in the hallway  
22 of Charles Taylor's house there was a red carpet and there were  
23 large cushioned chairs there. And then Benjamin Yeaten asked us  
24 to wait there and then we were waiting there. And then  
25 Charles Taylor appeared. Then we all rose. Then he told us to  
26 sit down.

27 Then Sam Bockarie said, "I am on my way going, sir. I have  
28 come to pay my respects, sir." Then he asked Sam Bockarie to  
29 maintain the RUF, to take care of the RUF and then Sam Bockarie

1 said he will do everything possible. And then he said if there  
2 was any problems Benjamin Yeaten and Musa Cisse should be  
3 immediately contacted. So from there we walked out of the  
4 building, sir, and Sam Bockarie left, sir.

5 Q. Okay, thank you. Just a few details I'd like to ask you  
6 about that. You said when you first got to White Flower they  
7 opened a gate. What kind of gate do you mean?

8 A. The house is on a big fence, then there is a security gate  
9 there. They opened the security gate first for us, we entered  
10 the house - we entered the house, the compound, and on the  
11 left-hand side there is a step to go down. There is a hallway  
12 there and they opened the door for us. We used the parlour of  
13 Charles Taylor into the house.

14 Q. When Charles Taylor came in how was he dressed?

15 A. He was in a brown suit and we all rose and stood and he  
16 said we should have seat - he said sit down.

17 Q. Did you recognise him?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Had you seen him before?

20 A. No.

21 Q. How did you recognise him?

22 A. Because I knew that we were taken to the President's  
23 residence and then he appeared. Then we all rose with Musa  
24 Cisse, Benjamin Yeaten.

25 Q. Had you seen any pictures of Charles Taylor before then?

26 A. Yes, but for me to meet him in person, that was the first  
27 time.

28 Q. After you left the house where did Sam Bockarie go, if you  
29 know?

1 A. We went to Benjamin Yeaten's house, down the hole because  
2 Benjamin Yeaten lived after his own house, down the hole. That  
3 was where the bodyguards were. Then they took them --

4 Q. Okay, just to clarify, what we understood is that Benjamin  
5 Yeaten's house was down the hole. Do you mean a hill? It was  
6 down a hill or what do you mean?

7 A. Yes, down the hill, down the hill. You have to drive down  
8 the hill.

9 Q. And how close was Benjamin Yeaten's house to  
10 Charles Taylor's house?

11 A. It's only the street that separates them. The fence of  
12 Charles Taylor is - down the street is Benjamin Yeaten's house  
13 and Montgomery's house.

14 Q. After you went to Benjamin Yeaten's house what happened?

15 A. That was where Sam Bockarie's bodyguards were. They took  
16 the bodyguards and they left.

17 Q. Where did you go then?

18 A. All of us drove to - up to Red Light. It was at Red Light  
19 that I came down from the escort pick-up where Mazhar and Sampson  
20 and Jungle were.

21 Q. Then where did you go?

22 A. I went to my house to prepare myself to take up my  
23 assignment.

24 Q. Now at that time were you living in Monrovia?

25 A. Yes, I was living in Monrovia.

26 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
27 repeat the location.

28 MR KOUJIAN:

29 Q. Can you repeat what you just said?



1 A. I said I was living at Looking Town, Rest Road.

2 THE INTERPRETER: Looking Town rice store.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: I believe the transcript is as good a  
4 spelling as I can give. I didn't intend to ask the exact  
5 location.

6 Q. Sir, did you have family at that time?

7 A. Yes, I had family. My mother was still alive and I had my  
8 cousins.

9 Q. But how about --

10 A. My uncles.

11 Q. Did you have a wife and children?

12 A. I have wife, I have children. Yes, I have wife and  
13 children. They were at my house too.

14 Q. So your family was living in Monrovia at that time?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Now after you went back to your house did you get called  
17 back again?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Tell us what happened next?

20 A. Mazhar, Sampson, Jungle, they came with the pick-up, a  
21 Toyota Land Cruiser pick-up, a green one. They said Chief  
22 Benjamin Yeaten said I should go. When I went he said I should  
23 prepare to go to Sierra Leone. Then I said no problem. Then I  
24 went and told my wife that I would be leaving to go to Sierra  
25 Leone. Then I was issued with one AK-47, and one silent weapon  
26 pistol which contained eight rounds. It contained eight rounds.  
27 I was issued with 10 boxes of ammunition to move to Sierra Leone.

28 Q. Sir, where did you get the pistol, the AK-47 and these  
29 boxes of ammunition?

1 A. They were issued to me by Chief Benjamin Yeaten, the SS  
2 director, at his house.

3 Q. Did he give you anything else besides the weapons and  
4 ammunition?

5 A. And one Yaesu radio for communication and three bodyguards.  
6 They were all issued rifles.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, Yaesu radio, the Yaesu is  
8 Y-E-S-U-E.

9 Q. Can you describe, Mr Witness, what a Yaesu radio is?

10 A. The Yaesu radio, it is something that uses a batteries and  
11 antenna that you can push up for communication.

12 Q. Do you have any idea how far you can transmit or receive  
13 radio communications with that Yaesu radio?

14 A. It goes as far as anywhere another Yaesu radio was.

15 Q. Now you also mentioned boxes of ammunition. When you say a  
16 box of ammunition can you describe what you mean?

17 A. Yes, a box where - it was a wooden box, it had two plates  
18 of sardines, long boxes containing the ammunition and each packet  
19 contained 20 inside, inside the sardine tin. You would have to  
20 broke the wooden box and you will have to open another sardine  
21 key that you would use to open the plates.

22 Q. Okay, just to be clear, I think everyone understands you  
23 but when you say a sardine plate do you mean metal that opens by  
24 rolling the metal back?

25 A. No, this one had an opener on the side and some had a metal  
26 that you would normally use like a sardine key, it turns.

27 Q. So each box contained two metal containers that you're  
28 calling sardine plates; is that right? Each wooden box had two  
29 metal containers?

1 A. Yes, each one of the wooden boxes contained two of the  
2 sardine plates inside.

3 Q. Then inside the sardine plates what was inside of those?

4 A. That was where the ammunition was. So even if it dropped  
5 on the ground it will be safe except it has been opened.

6 Q. Can you give us any idea of how much ammunition was inside  
7 each sardine plate?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. You said in your answer 20 packets, what do you mean by  
10 packet?

11 A. Inside the sardine - when they open the sardine the packets  
12 that were in there, each of those packets contained 20 bullets  
13 inside. But if I tell you the amount of packets that were in,  
14 no, that one I don't know.

15 Q. Okay, thank you. We appreciate that if you don't know you  
16 don't guess, thank you. Can you give us an idea of the size of  
17 the metal sardine cans. Can you show us with your hands?

18 A. The box is just like this same computer but it is a little  
19 longer than this computer. It was not as big as this computer,  
20 but it had something --

21 Q. Okay. I think it might be helpful if you showed also - you  
22 said the size of - bigger than the screen in front of you of the  
23 computer, but how deep was it? How wide and how deep?

24 A. No, it was something that was not wide, but it is deep.  
25 The size from the ground level, it is as high as this glass cup  
26 that you see.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, your Honours. The glass cup appears to  
28 me about 5 centimetres in height.

29 MR ANYAH: Madam President, we have a measuring tape in

1 court if that would assist.

2 THE WITNESS: No, it's just something like this, the box,  
3 from the ground up like this.

4 MS IRURA: The witness is indicating 14 centimetres.

5 MR KOUMJIAN:

6 Q. You also mentioned that you were given bodyguards by  
7 Benjamin Yeaten. How many bodyguards?

8 A. I was given three bodyguards.

9 Q. Were these people that you knew before?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Were they Liberians?

12 A. They were Liberians, sir.

13 Q. Do you know if they had belonged to any fighting faction or  
14 army?

15 A. They belonged to the former NPFL.

16 Q. Now after you received the ammunition and your guns what  
17 happened, where did you go then?

18 A. I was given escort by Mazhar, Sampson and Jungle and one  
19 bodyguard of Musa Cisse and one other driver who was called  
20 Yellowman [phon] and the three bodyguards, we started moving  
21 towards Lofa County. When we got there, we got to Voinjama, we  
22 met the police commander in charge of Lofa County who was called  
23 Colonel Toma and then he informed us that Sam Bockarie is on his  
24 way coming so we should stay - we were to remain in Voinjama in  
25 his house and then we waited there and Sam Bockarie came.

26 Then Mazhar, Sampson and Jungle, the car that we drove on,  
27 Sam Bockarie and SB Rogers, Eddie Kanneh and his bodyguard Foday  
28 and Rashid, they used that vehicle. The vehicle that Sam  
29 Bockarie drove on - Sam Bockarie - and they later called him on

1 the Yaesu area from the RUF controlled area that Issa Sesay  
2 should come and meet me at Foya --

3 Q. Thank you, witness, I want to take this - break it down and  
4 go a little bit slower. Now mentioned that you went with Mazhar,  
5 Sampson, Jungle and a bodyguard of Musa Cisse. Do you recall the  
6 name of that bodyguard?

7 A. It was Mike Lama, he was a Kpelle guy.

8 MR KOUJIAN: Lama is L-A-M-A, this individual.

9 Q. So we're clear on who is he, who is Mike Lama? What  
10 nationality is he?

11 A. He was Liberian. He was a Kpelle and he was in the police.

12 Q. Now you said you drove in a vehicle. Can you describe the  
13 vehicle that you drove in to Voijnama?

14 A. Yes, one SS pick-up.

15 Q. Where were your bodyguards?

16 A. They were at the back of the pick-up.

17 Q. Now you indicate that once you got to Voijnama you talked  
18 to the police chief there, is that right?

19 A. Yes, Colonel Toma.

20 MR KOUJIAN: Your Honours, that is T-O-M-A.

21 Q. Can you tell us again what Colonel Toma told your group?

22 A. Colonel Toma said Sam Bockarie was on his way to Voijnama  
23 and he said he is not that much far again, he will be in Voijnama  
24 soon, so Mazhar and Sampson should remain in Voijnama. So we  
25 were all waiting at his residence until Sam Bockarie arrived  
26 there.

27 Q. Okay, now you had mentioned that Sam Bockarie was with you  
28 at White Flower when you went on the respect visit. Do you know  
29 where he went after that, did he indicate where he was going or

1 did you learn?

2 A. I told you that from White Flower we drove to Benjamin  
3 Yeaten's house and then he collected his bodyguards and then he  
4 was given escort to go back to Sierra Leone.

5 Q. Thank you. Do you know how Colonel Toma found out that  
6 Bockarie was on his way to Voinjama?

7 A. We got to Voinjama, it was Colonel Toma who informed us  
8 because he had a Yaesu police radio that was assigned to them  
9 there.

10 Q. So your understanding is that he learned by a radio  
11 communication?

12 A. Yes, that was what Colonel Toma told us.

13 Q. So where did you actually meet Bockarie to switch the car  
14 as you described?

15 A. In Voinjama. It was at Colonel Toma's residence in the  
16 compound. The car that we drove in from Monrovia, that was the  
17 car that was used by Sam Bockarie and the other group and the car  
18 that Sam Bockarie drove in from Sierra Leone was given to me to  
19 go to Sierra Leone.

20 Q. So when you switched the cars did Sam Bockarie indicate  
21 where he was going? Where did he go after Voinjama?

22 A. He said he was going to see the President.

23 Q. When you say the President, who do you mean?

24 A. That is Charles Taylor.

25 Q. What happened to the ammunition that was in the vehicle  
26 that had been loaded at Yeaten's house?

27 A. Everything was transferred into the other vehicle that was  
28 - I was now going to use. And then Colonel Toma even gave us  
29 police escort to meet the other commander in Foya and that was

1 the battalion commander called Colonel Stanley.

2 Q. And after you - Stanley appears to be spelt correctly in  
3 the LiveNote. After you went to Foya then where did you go?

4 A. When I got to Foya I met Issa Sesay in Foya. He said, "Abu  
5 Keita, you have delayed, I have been waiting for you all day."  
6 Then I said to him, "But the road is bad and" --

7 THE INTERPRETER: Could the witness come again, please.

8 THE WITNESS: And I was not the person who was driving the  
9 car, I had a driver who was driving the car, so he had to bear  
10 with the kind of road.

11 MR KOUMJIAN:

12 Q. So Issa Sesay --

13 THE INTERPRETER: Correction, interpreter. So he had to  
14 bear with us because he knew the kind of road.

15 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you.

16 Q. So Issa Sesay was waiting for you there in Foya?

17 A. In Foya, yes.

18 Q. And where did you go after meeting Issa Sesay?

19 A. When I met with Issa Sesay we moved to Buedu. We drove  
20 from Foya to Buedu.

21 Q. Now, Mr Witness, when you drive from Foya to Buedu you  
22 cross the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Is that  
23 right?

24 A. Yes, it's a border.

25 Q. In order to make that trip from Foya to Buedu do you pass  
26 any check points?

27 A. Yes, three check points on the road.

28 Q. Can you tell us where the check points were at that time  
29 back in 1998?

1 A. When you leave Foya the first check point you meet and then  
2 Foya Tinga had the second check point and then at the border  
3 before you cross over to Dawa there was the last check point.

4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Spelling please, Foya something.

5 MR KOUMJIAN: Foya Tinga, T-I-N-G-A, and Dawa, D-A-W-A.

6 Q. At the border itself was there any security on one side or  
7 the other or both?

8 A. Yes. It was the AFL and the Liberian police and the  
9 customs.

10 Q. How about when you got to the Sierra Leone side of the  
11 border?

12 A. On the Sierra Leone side it was the RUF in charge.

13 Q. Now when you arrived in Buedu who was with you still at  
14 this time? You mentioned you left with several other  
15 individuals, did they keep going with you all the way to Buedu?

16 A. The three bodyguards who were given to me that Benjamin  
17 Yeaten assigned with me, they were with me until we entered Buedu  
18 and then Issa Sesay took off from there.

19 Q. And what about Mazhar, Jungle, Sampson and Mike Lama, you  
20 mentioned they were on the trip?

21 A. They stopped at Voinjama and drove back with Sam Bockarie  
22 to Monrovia.

23 Q. So, Mr Witness, when you got to Buedu did Issa Sesay tell  
24 you where you would stay, sleep?

25 A. When we got to Buedu the RUF soldiers, Issa Sesay  
26 instructed them - the military commander called Kaisoko to make  
27 an apartment available to me, very close to him and Sam Bockarie.  
28 And --

29 MR KOUMJIAN: The spelling for the record, Kaisoko, I



1 believe is K-A-I-S-O-K-O.

2 Q. So the type of house that you received, was that the same  
3 as any ordinary soldier would receive?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The regular RUF soldiers would sleep in a house?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you describe Buedu?

8 A. Buedu, there is a junction. There is a road from Buedu to  
9 Koindu, there is a road from Buedu to Kailahun and there is a  
10 road from Buedu to Dawa. So Buedu is a little bit up the hill  
11 and then there is a sloping way down, when you come towards the  
12 Liberian side.

13 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, Koindu, K-O-I-N-D-U, Kailahun,  
14 K-A-I-L-A-H-U-N and Dawa again, D-A-W-A.

15 Q. Mr Witness, can you estimate about how far it is from Buedu  
16 to the border of Liberia by road?

17 A. By road it's about 7 miles.

18 Q. When you got to Buedu, you've described it a bit, was there  
19 any construction going on?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What did you see?

22 A. Issa Sesay took me to a site where they were building an  
23 airstrip, that there was a Caterpillar and manpower to dig the  
24 hill to level the ground. The length was about 3 miles and that  
25 they said they were expecting planes to come down there to bring  
26 supplies. And whilst they were building a jet bombed the  
27 Caterpillar at the airstrip. So we used to work in the evening  
28 on the airstrip.

29 Q. Thank you. Now when you say a Caterpillar you mean a piece

1 of heavy equipment to move the earth?

2 A. I am talking about a Caterpillar machine. It was a  
3 machine. It was iron. It had a bulldozer to push.

4 Q. And you mentioned people were working on the airstrip. Who  
5 were these people?

6 A. They were civilians from the RUF.

7 Q. Do you know how these people came to work on the airstrip?

8 A. The MP commander Kaisoko was responsible, and the G5, to  
9 collect civilians from the various towns to come and do daily  
10 job.

11 Q. Do you know if they were paid, the labourers?

12 A. Nobody was paid, sir.

13 Q. Sir, when you were with the RUF did they address you by any  
14 rank?

15 A. They called me General Keita.

16 Q. When you arrived or after you arrived did anyone ever  
17 explain to you any RUF rules?

18 A. That was the time when Sam Bockarie came, sir.

19 Q. Okay, we'll get to that in a moment. When you were in  
20 Buedu after you arrived who would you normally eat with at that  
21 time?

22 A. I ate with Issa Sesay and then Mosquito's wife also  
23 provided food for me. She was called Hawa.

24 Q. How long between the time you arrived in Buedu and you saw  
25 Sam Bockarie again?

26 A. It took a couple of weeks before Sam Bockarie returned. It  
27 was Mazhar and Sampson and Jungle, they came first. They brought  
28 fuel and medicines to Issa Sesay and a few boxes of ammunition  
29 and then they went back.

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I do have a photograph I would  
2 like to show the witness on tab 31 and actually there's a colour  
3 photograph and a black and white copy with writing, so I ask the  
4 witness to be shown first the colour photograph. I see in front  
5 of the witness is the black and white copy, but there should also  
6 be a colour photograph. Can I just check that your Honours do  
7 have a colour photograph? Yes, thank you.

8 Q. Sir, have you seen this photograph before?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And was it shown to you by some investigators for the  
11 Office of the Prosecutor previously?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you recognise people in this photograph?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you tell us starting at the left, the man in the red  
16 t-shirt, then the middle, then the right, who are the three  
17 people in the photograph?

18 A. The one he was the commander that I led me who was called  
19 Colonel Mazhar. The second called Jungle, he also led me. Then  
20 the last is myself.

21 Q. Can you recognise where this photograph was taken?

22 A. We took this photograph in Kono.

23 Q. In Sierra Leone?

24 A. In Sierra Leone, yes.

25 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, may the photograph be marked for  
26 identification A and B next in order?

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: The photograph, the large coloured one  
28 will be MFI-17A and the smaller black and white version will be  
29 MFI-17B.

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you, your Honour. This would be an  
2 appropriate time to break if that's convenient.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, we are now going to take a  
4 break of half an hour. Whilst you're out of the Court you should  
5 not discuss your evidence with anybody else. Do you understand  
6 this?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, okay. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: We will adjourn until 11.30.

9 [Break taken at 11.00 a.m.]

10 [Upon resuming at 11.30 a.m.]

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, please continue.

12 MR KOUMJIAN:

13 Q. Sir, you just identified the photograph with Mazhar and  
14 Jungle. Can you tell us again which unit these men belonged to,  
15 if you know?

16 A. They belonged to the SSS.

17 Q. Did you ever see them in uniform?

18 A. No.

19 Q. When they came to Sierra Leone were they dressed like as in  
20 the picture, without a uniform?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Who did they report to, who was their boss?

23 A. In Sierra Leone, or in Liberia?

24 Q. Let us start with Liberia.

25 A. It was Benjamin Yeaten, sir.

26 Q. Then you indicated Sierra Leone. Did they report to  
27 someone in Sierra Leone?

28 A. When they came to Sierra Leone they would come to the  
29 commander: Sam Bockarie, or Issa Sesay.

1 Q. Is it correct that you spent a couple of years with the  
2 RUF, is that right, in Sierra Leone?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. During your time with the RUF would you see these men  
5 often: Mazhar and Jungle?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Taking them one at a time, do you know why Mazhar was  
8 coming to Sierra Leone?

9 A. If there was any problem where they needed Mazhar, they  
10 would send him to Sierra Leone.

11 Q. How often do you think he would come to Sierra Leone, based  
12 upon when you saw him?

13 A. If there was any problem, that was the time he would come.  
14 He wouldn't just come on his own. They would send him.

15 Q. What about Jungle -

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, who is "they"? We don't  
17 know who they are.

18 MR KOUMJIAN:

19 Q. Sir, who would send Mazhar?

20 A. Mazhar, Jungle and Sampson, they only came to Sierra Leone  
21 when Benjamin Yeaten sent them.

22 Q. Do you know if Jungle had a particular job in Sierra Leone  
23 when he came to Sierra Leone?

24 A. I didn't know that he had any other job. They would only  
25 send him.

26 Q. Can you tell us what tribe or ethnicity Jungle is?

27 A. Jungle belonged to the Kissy tribe in Liberia.

28 Q. I should say was. Do you know what happened to Jungle?

29 A. I don't know what happened to him. They said he was

1 killed.

2 Q. Did Jungle speak a language that is common to the Kissy  
3 tribe?

4 A. Yes, he spoke Kissy.

5 Q. Was there anyone in the RUF leadership who spoke Kissy?

6 A. It was Sam Bockarie who spoke Kissy.

7 Q. Do you know what tribe Mazhar belonged to?

8 A. Mazhar belonged to the Gio tribe.

9 Q. Just for the record, Gio is G-I-O.

10 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, one correction if I might.

11 I should have said this earlier, but the correction of the  
12 spelling of the candidate for the presidency, Togba-Nah Tipoteh,  
13 it is two words, the first is hyphenated: T-O-G-B-A - N-A-H and  
14 Tipoteh, T-I-P-O-T-E-H.

15 Q. When Jungle and Mazhar would come to Sierra Leone, did you  
16 ever see them bring anything?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you explain what they would bring?

19 A. I think I told you that they would come with ammunition and  
20 fuel and medicines.

21 Q. You did mention that for the time before Sam Bockarie came  
22 back. Did that happen other times over the years you were with  
23 the RUF?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR ANYAH: Madam President, perhaps counsel could assist us  
26 with some foundation as to the years he spent in Sierra Leone so  
27 we can know when these subsequent visits by these men were made.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Anyah. The witness, if  
29 I recall, said he was there a couple of years but that is quite

1 vague. Be a little more specific.

2 MR KOUMJIAN: I am going through it in the course of the  
3 direct examination.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Very well then.

5 MR KOUMJIAN: I will go through his entire time with the  
6 RUF in sequence.

7 Q. Sir, do you remember the next time you saw, or the first  
8 time you saw Sam Bockarie after you had gone to Buedu?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Where did you see him?

11 A. I saw him in Foya [indiscernible] in Foya.

12 Q. First of all, how long after you arrived in Buedu  
13 approximately was it before Sam Bockarie came back?

14 A. I told you that it took a couple of weeks.

15 Q. Thank you. How did you know to go to Foya, or why did you  
16 go to Foya?

17 A. Because Issa Sesay said Sam Bockarie was coming. He had  
18 received a radio call that we were to go to a meeting.

19 Q. Was that you would go to meet him, I believe?

20 A. Yes, I and Issa drove.

21 Q. When you saw Sam Bockarie did you see - was he with any  
22 vehicle, or vehicles?

23 A. Yes, he came with two trucks, one pickup, with ammunition  
24 and manpower.

25 Q. Can you describe the trucks that you saw Sam Bockarie with  
26 on this occasion?

27 A. It was the six style truck which the Libyan government gave  
28 to Charles Taylor.

29 Q. Do you recall the colour of the trucks?

1 A. The colour is almost like this table that is in front of  
2 me. It had this type of colour.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am not quite sure how to record it for  
4 the record, but I would say a cream colour, is that? Beige,  
5 beige.

6 MR KOUMJIAN:

7 Q. Were you able to be find out, or estimate, how much  
8 ammunition Sam Bockarie brought on that occasion?

9 A. He brought 300 boxes of ammunition. That was the first  
10 time he said he had a huge quantity.

11 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
12 repeat that last bit.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, please repeat your answer in  
14 full.

15 A. Sam Bockarie said he was happy, so he shot in the air. He  
16 shot in the air.

17 MR KOUMJIAN:

18 Q. Is that a lot of ammunition, 300 boxes?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did the ammunition - did the trucks, excuse me, continue  
21 across the border, or how was the ammunition taken to Sierra  
22 Leone?

23 PRESIDING JUDGE: You have two questions there and they are  
24 quite different, Mr Koumjian. Please reduce it to one, or divide  
25 them.

26 MR KOUMJIAN:

27 Q. Did the trucks continue to Sierra Leone?

28 A. The trucks went as far as to Buedu, sir.

29 Q. Thank you. You mentioned manpower, can you explain what



1 you mean when you said Sam Bockarie had with him manpower?

2 A. He came with men from Liberia. It was a mixture of  
3 Liberians and Sierra Leoneans, about 150 men. I was expecting  
4 that they were the men that Benjamin Yeaten was talking about  
5 whom he said I was going to command. I was expecting that those  
6 were the men, but the men were later taken to Bunumbu, the RUF  
7 training camp. The training commander was Monica Pearson and one  
8 Colonel Morris. Those were the training commanders at Bunumbu  
9 camp.

10 MR KOUMJIAN: Bunumbu, your Honours, B-U-N-U-M-B-U and  
11 Monica Pearson, P-E-A-R-S-O-N and I believe it was Colonel  
12 Morris, spelt as in the LiveNote transcript:

13 Q. Who else was with that convoy beside Sam Bockarie and the  
14 manpower that you mentioned?

15 A. There was one police driver called Senegalese.

16 Q. When you say he was police, he was a police where?

17 A. He was Liberian police, he was Liberian police.

18 Q. Is that a nickname: Senegalese?

19 A. That is the only name I know him for.

20 Q. Thank you. Was anyone else with that convoy that you knew  
21 from Liberia?

22 A. My wife also drove in that convoy from Liberia, so I was  
23 happy to see my wife.

24 Q. Was anyone, any other individuals, on the convoy that you  
25 knew?

26 A. I would think about that, sir.

27 Q. We will go on. Do you know where the convoy started from?

28 A. They said the men were taken from Camp Naama.

29 Q. What about the ammunition, do you know where the ammunition

1 came from?

2 A. They said the ammunition was from Monrovia, sir.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: I am not sure if we have had the spelling  
4 before. I believe Camp Naama is N-A-M-A. I see the transcript  
5 has three "A"s?

6 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, we would appreciate when the  
7 words "they" are said that you clarify who said.

8 A. Sam Bockarie, sir.

9 MR KOUMJIAN:

10 Q. After you met him in Foya, what was your next contact with  
11 Sam Bockarie? Tell us what happened.

12 A. We drove to Buedu.

13 Q. When you got to Buedu did you talk to Sam Bockarie?

14 A. I talked to Sam Bockarie after he had dispatched the men to  
15 Bunumbu training camp. That was the time he told me that the RUF  
16 had laws: That you are not entitled to a passport, that you are  
17 not entitled to foreign currency. If you are found with these  
18 things and you fail to report them to the authorities, he said  
19 they would deal with you, whosoever you were.

20 Q. Was there anything else you were not entitled to besides  
21 foreign currency and a passport?

22 A. The money, that was the most important one, and the  
23 diamonds, you were not entitled to them.

24 Q. Did he indicate who the diamonds belonged to?

25 A. He said the diamonds belonged to the organisation of the  
26 RUF.

27 Q. You mentioned money and foreign currency, what about Sierra  
28 Leone money, Leones? Were members of the RUF entitled to keep  
29 Leones?

1 A. He said you were entitled to keep up to 50,000 leones, but  
2 above that it did not belong to you.

3 Q. Did Sam Bockarie indicate where he had been since you had  
4 last seen him?

5 A. He said he had travelled to Burkina Faso then he gave me a  
6 picture that he had brought from Burkina Faso from the guesthouse  
7 where he was staying and one other Guinean they called Sheku  
8 Suwape Koroma.

9 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. Your Honour, that is three words,  
10 your Honours, S-H-E-K-U S-U-W-A-P-E K-O-R-O-M-A:

11 Q. Just so we are clear, this is a conversation - when Sam  
12 Bockarie told you about going to Burkina Faso, he told you that  
13 after coming back to Buedu with the 300 boxes of ammunition, is  
14 that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you later give that photograph to anyone?

17 A. Yes, I gave it to the Prosecution.

18 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. Your Honours, I believe that is  
19 tab 27, tab 27. Tab 27 is two photographs, again in colour and  
20 in black and white, with some writing:

21 Q. Mr Witness, I am showing you the colour photograph. Why  
22 don't you, Mr Witness, if you could with your headphone, move to  
23 where you can look at the colour photograph on the overhead, so  
24 to your left. The woman from the Court management can help you.

25 This appears to be a photograph of six people standing up  
26 and, Mr Witness, I would ask you, starting at the left, the tall  
27 man with his hands behind his back, the tall man on the left, can  
28 you go through each one and tell me if you recognise anyone and  
29 then their names?

1 A. I don't know this man. I don't know this tall one. The  
2 second one is Eddie Kanneh. The third is Sam Bockarie. The  
3 fourth is SB Rogers of the war council of the RUF. The fifth  
4 I do not know. The sixth is Sheku Suwape Koroma. He is a  
5 Guinean.

6 Q. Thank you. You can take your seat back again.

7 MR KOU MJIAN: Your Honour, I would ask that these two  
8 photographs be marked next for identification, A and B.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: The colour photograph identified by the  
10 witness with six people is MFI-18A. The black and white version  
11 is MFI-18B.

12 MR KOU MJIAN:

13 Q. So, Mr Witness, the photograph you just saw, is that the  
14 picture you told us Sam Bockarie gave you?

15 A. Yes.

16 PRESIDING JUDGE: A point of clarification, Mr Koumjian, we  
17 have two photographs: one black and white, one coloured. Which  
18 is the witness referring to?

19 A. The one that I have just pointed at.

20 MR KOU MJIAN: Indicating the colour photograph shown:

21 Q. Sir, in the photograph you identified a Guinean: Sheku  
22 Suwape Koroma. Can you tell us who he is?

23 A. He is a Guinean who was in Liberia with Benjamin Yeaten,  
24 sir.

25 Q. Where did you first see him? Did you ever meet him?  
26 Excuse me.

27 A. Repeat the question.

28 Q. Did you ever meet him in person yourself?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. Where was it?

2 A. I saw him in Monrovia with Benjamin Yeaten and then he came  
3 to Buedu. I saw him there with Sam Bockarie.

4 Q. When you saw him in Monrovia do you remember when that was?

5 A. Yes, before I took up the assignment with the RUF, sir.

6 Q. Was he at one of the meetings you mentioned to us?

7 A. No.

8 Q. When you were in Monrovia where did you see him? At what  
9 place, or house?

10 A. I saw him at Benjamin Yeaten's house, but he was not in  
11 that meeting, sir.

12 Q. Okay. When you spoke to Sam Bockarie did he discuss what  
13 your assignment would be back in Buedu?

14 A. In Buedu he told me that the Scorpion unit - there was not  
15 going to be any double commands on the grounds of the RUF. He  
16 said there would be only one command. There was not going to be  
17 two commands, so every one of us should take command from him.

18 Q. When you had that discussion with Bockarie, was anyone else  
19 present?

20 A. Yes, Jungle was there, Sampson was there, Mazhar also was  
21 there, but then I had been informed, they said, "Keita, there is  
22 no big deal in that. We just have to cooperate." That was the  
23 time he came with the letter of assignment for me.

24 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
25 repeat his answer.

26 MR KOU MJIAN:

27 Q. Sir, we didn't get the last part of your answer, but I will  
28 just ask you another question. The last we understood was you  
29 said, "That was the time he came with the letter of assignment

1 for me."

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Who came with the letter of assignment for you? Who gave  
4 you the letter of assignment?

5 A. Sam Bockarie, Sam Bockarie, General Sam Bockarie.

6 Q. When you say letter of assignment, can you explain what  
7 that was?

8 A. When I was coming to the RUF I had not been with the RUF  
9 before. I said it should be in writing that I was going to be  
10 the commander of the Scorpion with the RUF and then he told me  
11 yes. From there we talked to Benjamin Yeaten and he told me,  
12 "Yes, Sam Bockarie has already given you the document?" And  
13 I said, "Yes, sir." Then he said, "Okay, that document was  
14 signed by President Taylor", and he said I should maintain that  
15 document very well.

16 Q. Okay, this is important so we are going to go over it  
17 slowly in a little detail. Did Bockarie actually give you a  
18 piece of paper that he said was the letter of assignment?

19 A. Yes, he gave me a paper, sir.

20 Q. Where were you when he gave that to you?

21 A. At his house, in front of his house, on the step in front  
22 of his house, sir.

23 Q. Do you know what happened to that paper? Do you have it  
24 today, or what has happened to it?

25 A. I lost the paper because during the last attack in Liberia a  
26 my mother's house was burnt down. It was then that I lost that  
27 piece of paper.

28 Q. You indicated that you had asked for the paper, where were  
29 you when you asked to have your order in writing?

- 1 A. I was already - before I left Liberia I talked about that  
2 with Benjamin Yeaten and he said that would be no problem.
- 3 Q. Then you said after you got the paper you had another  
4 conversation with Yeaten, is that correct?
- 5 A. Yes, over a Yaesu radio, sir.
- 6 Q. Where were you speaking on the Yaesu? Where were you when  
7 you had that conversation?
- 8 A. At Sam Bockarie's residence in Buedu.
- 9 Q. Did you actually hear the voice of Benjamin Yeaten?
- 10 A. I spoke with Chief Benjamin Yeaten, sir, and I heard his  
11 voice, sir.
- 12 Q. Where did you understand Yeaten was when he was talking to  
13 you?
- 14 A. He was talking to me from Monrovia, sir.
- 15 Q. Thank you. What did Yeaten tell you about the paper?
- 16 A. He told me that that is my assignment paper and that  
17 I should protect it carefully and that I should not play with it  
18 because the President signed the paper and it was signed in blue  
19 pen.
- 20 Q. You remember seeing a signature in blue pen?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. When Sam Bockarie arrived, did you stay in Buedu for some  
23 time with the RUF there in Buedu?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Can you describe at that time what was the command  
26 structure of the RUF in Sierra Leone?
- 27 A. The command structure: Sam Bockarie was the commander,  
28 Issa Sesay was the deputy, Dennis Mingo and Morris Kallon.
- 29 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness repeat

1 that name again.

2 MR KOUMJIAN:

3 Q. Sorry, sir, but the interpretation has not kept up with you  
4 so we need to both speak a little more slowly. What we got is  
5 Sam Bockarie was commander and Issa Sesay the deputy. Then you  
6 mentioned, I believe, the next level?

7 A. Dennis Mingo.

8 Q. Who else?

9 A. Dennis Mingo, you have Morris Kallon and then you have Mike  
10 Lamin, you have Isaac and then you have Lawrence Wohmandia.

11 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. I am going to do some spellings.  
12 The witness mentioned Isaac that is I-S-A-A-C. Mike Lamin and  
13 Morris Kallon as spelt on the LiveNote transcript.

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Lawrence Wohmandia, or something.

15 MR KOUMJIAN: And Lawrence Wohmandia is Lawrence and the  
16 second name, the family name, W-O-H-M-A-N-D-I-A:

17 Q. At that time did you know someone by the name of Kennedy?

18 A. Yes, he was the mining commander of the RUF, sir.

19 Q. I believe the witness said mining. Did you say mining  
20 commander, witness?

21 A. He was the mining - when the RUF was mining any diamonds he  
22 controlled it and he will take it to Sam Bockarie.

23 Q. What is the nationality of Kennedy?

24 A. I only knew him to be a Sierra Leonean, sir.

25 Q. You mentioned Isaac, what was the nationality of Isaac?

26 A. He was a Liberian.

27 Q. You mentioned Dennis Mingo, that is Superman, right?

28 A. Yes. He was also a Liberian. He was Gbandi by tribe.

29 Q. You also mentioned previously a training commander. Can



- 1 you mention her name again?
- 2 A. Who, Morris? Colonel Morris? Monica Pearson?
- 3 Q. What was the nationality of Monica Pearson?
- 4 A. She was a Liberian, a Pele.
- 5 Q. Pele, I believe, is P-E-L-E. That is a tribe, is that
- 6 correct, sir?
- 7 A. Yes, it is a tribe, it is a tribe.
- 8 Q. Did you know someone by the name of RUF Rambo?
- 9 A. Yes, yes.
- 10 Q. Who was he? What was his job?
- 11 A. He was one of the front line commanders.
- 12 Q. What was the nationality of RUF Rambo?
- 13 A. He was a Liberian and he was Mandingo.
- 14 Q. Did you know a commander named Matthew Barbue, B-A-R-B-U-E?
- 15 A. Yes, he was also Liberian.
- 16 Q. What was his role in the RUF?
- 17 A. He was one of the front line commanders.
- 18 Q. Thank you. Where at this time was Foday Sankoh, if you
- 19 know?
- 20 A. At that time Foday Sankoh was arrested by the Nigerians.
- 21 Q. At that time, do you know, when you arrived in Buedu and
- 22 Sam Bockarie came back, do you know where Johnny Paul Koroma was?
- 23 A. Yes, Johnny Paul Koroma was in Kangamga.
- 24 MR KOU MJIAN: Kangamga is K-A-N-G-A-M-G-A:
- 25 Q. About how far is it from Buedu to Kangamga?
- 26 A. Roughly about 7 and a half miles.
- 27 Q. Now, in the RUF command structure at that time were there
- 28 any officers, former officers, of the SLA that were working with
- 29 the RUF?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you name those that you remember now?

3 A. Yes, one was Akim, the second was Leatherboot, Eddie  
4 Kanneh, Honourable Adams, Honourable Suleh, and one Honourable  
5 called Lagat [phon]. They were all from the SLA.

6 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, I am just doing some spellings.  
7 Leatherboot is spelt as the two words in English, it is one word,  
8 and the witness said Akim, A-K-I-M, and he mentioned Suleh,  
9 S-U-L-E-H.

10 Q. Were all of these - what were these commanders doing at  
11 that time?

12 A. They were all front line commanders.

13 Q. Were they working separate from the RUF, or with the RUF,  
14 these particular commanders?

15 A. They were working with the RUF.

16 Q. Did you know a Colonel Hector?

17 A. Yes, he was one of the SLA, sir.

18 Q. Where was he, do you know?

19 A. I don't know his whereabouts, but he was part of the RUF.  
20 We were all in Kono.

21 Q. Did you know a Banyu, B-A-N-Y-U?

22 A. Banyu? I don't recall that name.

23 Q. Banyu?

24 A. Banyu, Banyu. It is not Banyu, it is Banya. He is SLA.  
25 He was a commander in Tongo Field.

26 Q. That is, I believe, B-A-N-Y-A. What is Tongo Field? That  
27 is T-O-N-G-O. What is Tongo Field?

28 A. It is a town. It is a mining town at the back of Kenema.

29 Q. When Sam Bockarie told you that there was only one command

1 did you have any discussion about your bodyguards?

2 A. The bodyguards, they later changed. He gave me his own  
3 bodyguards and then the bodyguards who came with me, he took them  
4 over.

5 Q. How many bodyguards did Sam Bockarie give you?

6 A. He gave me three bodyguards.

7 Q. Did you have anything else with you that Sam Bockarie took?

8 A. He requested for the Yaesu radio that I brought with me and  
9 then he took the Yaesu radio that I brought, the one that was  
10 assigned to me by Benjamin Yeaten. He requested that I turn it  
11 over to him.

12 Q. Did you do that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you tell us, when Sam Bockarie came to Buedu with the  
15 300 boxes of ammunition, what was the atmosphere among the RUF  
16 present in Buedu?

17 A. They were very happy and then he called a muster, he called  
18 a meeting, and then those of us who were vanguards, he invited us  
19 into his house to discuss about the ammunition and then the plan  
20 that we should take towards the ammunitions.

21 Q. Okay. Let us take these slowly. You mentioned several  
22 meetings with Sam Bockarie. On that day when Sam Bockarie came  
23 back, what was the first meeting he had that you recall?

24 A. The first meeting, you know it was not with me in  
25 particular, but it was the whole RUF. He called Issa Sesay who  
26 was in that meeting, Lawrence Wohmandia was there, SB Rogers,  
27 Lawrence Wohmandia, Akim, Leatherboot and he said, "That is the  
28 material, that is the ammunition, and the operation is that we  
29 should take over Kono and Makeni and to terrorise the highway",

1 he said, because Kono was a strategic area for us to get arms so  
2 that the mining will continue.

3 Q. Okay, where it did this meeting with these commanders take  
4 place?

5 A. The meeting took place at his house and then from there  
6 they had a vanguard meeting which was in closed doors in his  
7 bedroom. The people who they called vanguards, those were the  
8 people who brought the war into Sierra Leone. Those were the  
9 ones they called the vanguards.

10 Q. Okay, thank you. I was going to ask you to clarify that,  
11 but let me make sure we understand. When you say the vanguards  
12 are the people that brought the war into Sierra Leone, what do  
13 you mean?

14 A. I mean the first people who entered into Sierra Leone with  
15 the war, with the RUF. Those were the ones who were called  
16 vanguards.

17 Q. Were vanguards Sierra Leoneans, Liberians, or both?

18 A. They were a mixture. There were Liberians, there were  
19 Sierra Leoneans.

20 Q. Now, you have explained to us what vanguards are. Perhaps  
21 I will take this opportunity, you mentioned earlier the word  
22 "honourable", can you explain who were the honourables?

23 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could counsel go over his  
24 question please.

25 A. Vanguard means -

26 MR KOUMJIAN: Wait, the interpreter asked me to restate the  
27 question.

28 Q. Can you tell us what the term "honourbles" means?

29 A. Of the vanguard, or the honourables, or the ones who were

1 the honourables, who were honourable, Adams, Sul eh. They were the  
2 form of people who did the overthrow of the AFRC. Those were the  
3 people. But the vanguards were the special forces, the first  
4 group that crossed into Sierra Leone with the RUF. Those were  
5 the ones that were called the vanguards.

6 Q. Thank you. This first meeting that Bockarie had at the  
7 house after bringing the ammunition, you mentioned some  
8 commanders and in your answer you also mentioned - you said it  
9 was an RUF meeting and you mentioned Akim and Leatherboot. Akim  
10 and Leatherboot were AFRC, they were SLAs, is that right?

11 A. Yes, but they all worked with the RUF.

12 Q. Can you explain to us, you said Bockarie said Kono was  
13 strategic, did he explain why?

14 A. He said because we needed to generate funds for the RUF and  
15 then the only place where we can get more resources to generate  
16 funds was Kono, so we could be able to do mining.

17 Q. Okay, so after the meeting at the house you said there was  
18 a meeting in Bockarie's bedroom of the vanguards, is that  
19 correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So were you allowed into that meeting? Were you present  
22 for that?

23 A. No, they never allowed me to attend the meeting, sir. It  
24 was only for vanguards and I was not a vanguard.

25 Q. After the closed door vanguard meeting, was there another  
26 meeting?

27 A. That was a muster parade it was not a meeting, where all  
28 the soldiers assembled at the military grounds before Kaisoko's  
29 office. That was the time he instructed Issa Sesay that this

1 mission, that the mission is that there should be no retreat, no  
2 surrender, "You should make sure you take over Kono and Makeni",  
3 and then he said President Taylor said they should be very  
4 vigilant and maintain the ground of the RUF, during that muster  
5 parade.

6 Q. You said it was in front of Kaisoko's office?

7 A. Not Kasava [phon], it is Kaisoko, the military police  
8 commander in Buedu.

9 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you, I believe that is K-A-I-S-O-K-O.

10 Q. Sir, after this meeting was there an offensive?

11 A. Yes, that was the time we took the offensive against Kono  
12 and Makeni, and then myself there was an operation from Segwema,  
13 from Bunumbu to Segwema, to Jumo Kafebu, Gbava and Bendu  
14 junction.

15 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, thank you. It is going to take me a  
16 few moments to spell some of these. Jumo Kafebu, J-U-M-O and  
17 second word K-A-F-E-B-U. Segwema, S-E-G-W-E-M-A. Bunumbu,  
18 B-U-N-U-M-B-U. B-U-N-U-M-B-U.

19 Q. I believe, sir, did you say Gbava?

20 A. Gbava, Gbava.

21 Q. That is G-B-A-V-A. In that offensive do you know if the  
22 main town in Kono, Kono Town, or Koindu Town as it is sometimes  
23 called, was taken?

24 A. Officially Kono Town was announced on Christmas day that  
25 Koindu has been taken over by the RUF.

26 Q. So that was Christmas day 1998?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Just so we have an idea, about how long before Kono Town  
29 fell did Sam Bockarie come back with the 300 boxes of ammunition?

1 A. When Sam Bockarie came that was the time he said the  
2 materials have come and that was the time the offensive started.

3 Q. Thank you. We are just trying to get an idea of  
4 approximately how much time before Christmas day, before Kono  
5 fell, did Sam Bockarie come with the ammunition. How many days,  
6 or weeks, or months? Can you estimate?

7 A. I am unable to estimate that, sir.

8 Q. How soon after Sam Bockarie came with the ammunition did  
9 the operation start?

10 A. Just when he came with the ammunition there was no wasting  
11 time. The operation started straight. It was only the meeting  
12 that he had in Buedu. Immediately after the meeting Issa Sesay  
13 was dispatched.

14 Q. Where was Issa Sessay sent?

15 A. Issa Sesay was sent to Kono along with Morris Kallon and  
16 Akim.

17 Q. Akim the SLA?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Sir, during this offensive did you play a part in that  
20 offensive?

21 A. Yes. It was not in Kono. I was on Segwema and the various  
22 places I named: Jumo Kafebu, Bunumbu.

23 Q. Gbava?

24 A. Gbava. And then Sam Bockarie further instructed that if  
25 any air raid took place we should burn down the place if there  
26 was any resistance.

27 Q. Was Sam Bockarie's order, to burn down if there is any  
28 resistance, was that carried out?

29 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Did you see that?

2 A. Yes, myself I took part in that.

3 Q. Where did you see the burning?

4 A. We burned Bunumbu, seven houses in Bunumbu. We burned  
5 houses in Segwema. We burned places in Jumo Kafebud. We did  
6 some burning in Gbava.

7 Q. When you mentioned seven houses in Bunumbu, how about in  
8 the other places? Was it just one house, or was it many houses?

9 A. Some places we burned down ten houses, some areas seven,  
10 some areas eight.

11 Q. During this offensive in the Kono area - first let us make  
12 it clear, which districts of Sierra Leone were involved in that  
13 offensive?

14 A. Please repeat that question.

15 Q. You mentioned this offensive involving Kono. In addition  
16 to Kono District were any other districts involved?

17 A. That was Makeni. Makeni, Masingbi, Magburaka.

18 MR KOU MJIAN: I think we had - sorry, I just need the  
19 spelling of Masingbi, it is M-A-S-I-N-G-B-I:

20 Q. Were some of these places that were attacked in?

21 Kailahun District.

22 MR ANYAH: Objection, your Honour. I have been silent for  
23 a while to the leading nature of the questions and I register an  
24 objection at this point.

25 MR KOU MJIAN: The question is were some of the attacks in  
26 Kailahun District.

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a minute, Mr Koumjian, you had not  
28 mentioned Kailahun before so that is leading. There has been a  
29 considerable amount of leading to date. It has not been objected



1 to and it has been let go. There is now a registered objection,  
2 so you must not lead.

3 MR KOUMJIAN:

4 Q. Do you know what districts were involved in the attack?

5 A. Like which district?

6 Q. Thank you, I will move on. It is okay.

7 During these offensives you mentioned Kono Town finally  
8 falling during this offensives.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. During these offensives did Sam Bockarie go anywhere?

11 A. Yes, Sam Bockarie travelled to Liberia.

12 Q. How do you know that?

13 A. Because he called Mike Lamin to come and take over, to be  
14 in charge of the ground in Buedu and then myself I escorted him  
15 to Foya where Joe Tuah came with the chopper and he went to  
16 Monrovia.

17 Q. You say "he called Mike Lamin", who do you mean called Mike  
18 Lamin?

19 A. Sam Bockarie instructed Mike Lamin to come and take charge  
20 of Buedu until he comes back from his trip.

21 Q. How did Sam Bockarie communicate with Mike Lamin to tell  
22 him to come to Buedu?

23 A. Over the Yaesu communication radio.

24 Q. Now, you said he asked Mike Lamin to take charge in Buedu.  
25 You already told us the number 2 in the RUF at that time was Issa  
26 Sesay. Do you know why he didn't ask Issa Sesay to take over?

27 A. Because Issa Sesay was already in Kono heading towards  
28 Makeni, so that was the reason why he called Mike Lamin, because  
29 he was closer to him, to take charge.

1 Q. You mentioned that you meant with Bockarie to Foya, is that  
2 right?

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. When you travelled to Foya what happened?

5 A. Joe Tuah came over with the chopper that had a military  
6 colour and then he took Sam Bockarie to Monrovia with the  
7 chopper.

8 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, Tuah is T-U-A-H.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: And chopper, am I to assume, is a  
10 helicopter, or am I not to assume is a helicopter? Can we have  
11 the record correct.

12 A. That was a helicopter.

13 MR KOUMJIAN: Not a Harley Davidson, I believe:

14 Q. Do you know how long Sam Bockarie was in Monrovia?

15 A. He did not stay there too long, sir.

16 Q. Did you become aware when he came back? Were you involved  
17 at all when he came back?

18 A. Yes, when he was coming he communicated and he said he was  
19 on his way coming and then he also came with a pickup, one ashes  
20 colour pickup, a Toyota Land Cruiser, and he said it was given to  
21 him by Charles Taylor.

22 Q. Thank you. Again, if you can just maybe instead of saying  
23 "he" try to use the name, just so it is clear when we write the  
24 record.

25 A. Sam Bockarie.

26 Q. Thank you. Now, were you present when Sam Bockarie came  
27 back?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Where did you meet him?

1 A. I met him at Foya.

2 Q. You said the pickup was an ash colour - excuse me, the Land  
3 Cruiser was an ash colour?

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: I thought it was a pickup.

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 MR KOUMJIAN: Sorry, it was a pickup, a Land Cruiser,  
7 sorry. Thank you.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you.

9 MR KOUMJIAN:

10 Q. Did Bockarie explain why Charles Taylor gave him the  
11 pickup?

12 A. Yes, he said because the pickup was a new pickup so he  
13 would be able to move up and down faster.

14 Q. Did Bockarie bring anything else back with him besides the  
15 pickup?

16 A. In the pickup he brought some jean trousers, some T-shirts,  
17 some medicine and bandages.

18 Q. Thank you. Now, at some time did you meet Johnny Paul  
19 Koroma?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Where did you first see Johnny Paul Koroma?

22 A. Johnny Paul Koroma, the first time I saw him was in  
23 Kangamga.

24 Q. What happened when you saw him in Kangamga?

25 A. We went there to do some communication, to do a call over  
26 the Yaesu radio. Sam Bockarie, Eddie Kanneh, Leatherboot, we  
27 drove to Kangamga so that he could talk to Bazzy, 55 and SAJ Musa  
28 so that they all could cooperate.

29 Q. Did Johnny Paul Koroma speak to the others you mentioned on

1 the radio, or any of them?

2 A. Yes, he spoke to them and then Eddie Kanneh told me that,  
3 yes, the chief has already spoken to Bazzy, 55 Gullit and SAJ.

4 Q. Was there any agreement reached?

5 A. Yes, they said they will cooperate and they will work  
6 together, but the problem was between SAJ and Dennis Mingo. They  
7 said Dennis Mingo never wanted to take orders from SAJ and then  
8 SAJ also said he wouldn't take orders from Dennis Mingo.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: We have not had spellings of these new  
10 names.

11 MR KOUMJIAN: I thought these would be names your Honours  
12 would be more qualified to spell than myself.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Indeed, that is a pertinent observation,  
14 but I am thinking of the record.

15 MR KOUMJIAN: SAJ is S-A-J; Musa, M-U-S-A; Bazzy,  
16 B-A-Z-Z-Y; 55 is the numbers 55; Gullit, G-U-L-L-I-T.

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, for the record I don't know  
18 where you based that assumption from.

19 MR KOUMJIAN: Which assumption?

20 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: That we are familiar with these names.  
21 We don't know who these people are officially.

22 MR KOUMJIAN: I just meant the spelling, your Honours.

23 Thank you:

24 Q. Sir, I want to talk to you a little bit about  
25 communications in the RUF. Can you tell us, you mentioned Yaesu  
26 radio, do you know if the RUF had Yaesu radio sets?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. Can you give any estimate of how many Yaesu radio sets you  
29 were able to observe, or learn about?

- 1 A. In Buedu alone there was seven radios, Yaesu radios.
- 2 Q. Do you know if individual commanders had Yaesu radio sets  
3 outside of Buedu?
- 4 A. The radio sets were not personal. They have to be assigned  
5 to you. Isaac had a radio, Mike Lamin had a radio, Dennis Mingo  
6 had a radio and the chief radio operator, who was Zedman, he  
7 monitored the radio stations, all the radio stations for the RUF.
- 8 MR KOUJIAN: The last name was Zedman, Z-E-D-M-A-N:
- 9 Q. Sir, the first name you mentioned I didn't understand the  
10 name through the interpretation. Do you remember who the first  
11 name you mentioned, was that Isaac?
- 12 A. Isaac.
- 13 Q. It has previously been spelt. By the way, do you know  
14 Isaac's second name, family name?
- 15 A. That was the only name I knew for him.
- 16 Q. Do you know his nationality?
- 17 A. He is a Liberian.
- 18 Q. Did you know a commander named Short Bai Bureh? That is  
19 B-A-I, second word B-U-R-E-H.
- 20 A. Yes, he is a Sierra Leonean.
- 21 Q. Did he have a radio?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You mentioned before Matthew Barbue?
- 24 A. Matthew Barbue had a radio.
- 25 Q. Can you tell us how messages would be sent over the radio?
- 26 A. Every radio had a radio operator. Every Yaesu radio had a  
27 radio operator and the message they give, the message is in  
28 written documents in codes. Before they send it they will do it  
29 in codes, so you have to do the writing. You the person sending

1 the message would sign. They had a large diary. The message  
2 cannot go within the RUF if you did not sign.

3 Q. Who would operate the radios?

4 A. All the radios had radio operators specially assigned to  
5 them from the chief signal operator, who is Zedman.

6 Q. Did any of the commanders ever themselves personally get on  
7 the radio and speak?

8 A. It was only Sam Bockarie and Issa Sesay and Dennis Mingo  
9 did that.

10 Q. Were these Yaesu radios able to reach Monrovia from Buedu?

11 A. Repeat the question.

12 THE INTERPRETER: Can counsel go over the question, please.

13 MR KOUMJIAN:

14 Q. Could these Yaesu radios in Buedu communicate with  
15 Monrovia?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, you have also mentioned - so far you have mentioned  
18 once a sat phone Sam Bockarie had and you described it.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How would he use that phone? Did you ever see him using  
21 that phone?

22 A. No. He went through the radio office, the radio room. The  
23 first room, it was the veranda, that was where the radio was,  
24 where he had his own radio operator. He had one lady called  
25 Sebatu, she was the radio operator there. He had Eboni, he was a  
26 radio operator there, then he also had Memunatu, then he also had  
27 Si ta, Memunatu and Si ta.

28 MR ANYAH: Madam President, I am sorry to interrupt.

29 I believe the question counsel initially posed to the witness was

1 whether the witness knew how Sam Bockarie operated the radio, to  
2 which the witness said no, or the sat phone, and then the witness  
3 continued on a narrative all by himself and my objection is there  
4 is no question pending. He answered the question and in the  
5 silence he just started speaking.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: So? It is not unusual for witnesses to  
7 do that. What is the objection?

8 MR ANYAH: Our preference, if it please the Court, would be  
9 that a question be posed and he answers the question. The  
10 question was posed, he answered. He said he did not know how Sam  
11 Bockarie operated the sat phone and he just kept on talking about  
12 other operators.

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I don't think it is that easy to curtail  
14 a witness, but if it becomes irrelevant we will intervene.

15 MR KOUMJIAN:

16 Q. Mr Witness, perhaps you didn't understand my question.  
17 Your answer was about radios. My question is about the satellite  
18 phone. Did you ever see Sam Bockarie use the satellite phone?

19 A. Yes.

20 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, that has been answered.

21 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I believe from the answer it is  
22 obvious the witness didn't get the right interpretation, or  
23 didn't understand the question.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: He said, "Yes, I did not see him use, but  
25 he used the radio room", then he continued.

26 MR KOUMJIAN: Can I ask the witness?

27 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

28 MR KOUMJIAN:

29 Q. Mr Witness, did you you ever see Sam Bockarie using the

1 satellite phone?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Were you ever present when he was speaking on the satellite  
4 phone?

5 A. Yes, on the satellite phone. I was present when he spoke  
6 on the satellite phone to Benjamin Yeaten.

7 Q. Do you know how the satellite phone was used - sorry, let  
8 me correct that. Do you know how the calls were paid for on the  
9 satellite phone?

10 A. The satellite phone, it is like a top up card on the phone.  
11 It is units from Liberia. It is Benjamin Yeaten who sent the  
12 units. He will scratch the card and send the number to Sam  
13 Bockarie.

14 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, I don't know, in that answer  
15 that I think we all agree was non-responsive the witness did give  
16 some names and I don't know if you want me to spell them or not,  
17 of the radio operators.

18 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, it is your case. If you  
19 think these names are important for the record, you spell them.  
20 If you don't think they are important, we skip them.

21 MR KOUMJIAN: Sita is S-I-T-A; Sebatu, S-E-B-A-T-U; Eboni  
22 like the colour - sorry, Eboni, E-B-O-N-I; and Memunatu,  
23 M-E-M-U-N-A-T-U;

24 Q. You mentioned scratch cards, how did the scratch cards get  
25 to Sierra Leone?

26 A. By communication sometimes, by the Yaesu.

27 Q. And how about the other times?

28 A. They would scratch it and send the number.

29 Q. Thank you. When you say they would send the number, how



1 would they send the number?

2 A. Through the radio, sir.

3 Q. You have told us about Sam Bockarie having a sat phone.

4 Did you ever see anyone else in the RUF with a sat phone?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who was that?

7 A. That was Issa Sesay after Sam Bockarie's regime.

8 Q. Do you know where Issa Sesay got the sat phone from?

9 A. He said the sat phone was given to him by Charles Taylor  
10 from Liberia.

11 Q. Sir, after this offensive in the Kono area did you become  
12 aware of more fighting occurring somewhere else in Sierra Leone?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What happened next?

15 A. The next operation after Kono and Makeni operations, and  
16 Freetown, the next one was that we fought in Liberia.

17 Q. Sorry, you mentioned Freetown so I want to concentrate on  
18 that.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. The attack on Freetown. Where were you when the attack on  
21 Freetown was happening in January 1999?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: You are definitely leading again,  
23 Mr Koumjian.

24 MR KOUMJIAN: I thought it was established that it was  
25 January, was the Freetown offensive.

26 PRESIDING JUDGE: No, the term - in any event, it is not  
27 established.

28 MR KOUMJIAN:

29 Q. Sir, when did you become aware - let me start all over.

1 Sir, where were you when the attack on Freetown happened?

2 A. When the attack on Freetown happened I was in Buedu.

3 Q. Where was Sam Bockarie?

4 A. Sam Bockarie was in Buedu. That was the time I told you  
5 that he came with these jean trousers and T-shirts and the car.

6 Q. How did you become aware of what was happening in Freetown?

7 A. At 3 o'clock we listened to BBC Focus on Africa and one  
8 commander spoke from Freetown saying that they were in control of  
9 the State House. Sam Bockarie became angry. He called up Issa  
10 Sesay and Morris Kallon asking them why they should allow someone  
11 to call the BBC while he, the commander, has not called the BBC.  
12 Then from there he himself called the BBC when they were in  
13 Buedu. He was speaking to Robin White over the satellite phone.  
14 He shot and said we were coming around the State House, but we  
15 were in Buedu.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, who is this "he himself  
17 called the BBC", is that Issa Sesay?

18 A. Sam Bockarie, General Sam Bockarie [indiscernible]. He  
19 called the BBC from Buedu over his satellite phone.

20 MR KOUMJIAN:

21 Q. Did Sam Bockarie maintain any communications with people in  
22 Freetown?

23 A. In Freetown?

24 Q. In and around Freetown?

25 A. He was talking to the various commanders over the Yaesu  
26 radios. He also communicated with Benjamin Yeaten and Joe Tuah  
27 over his satellite phone at night.

28 Q. Starting with the commanders you mentioned over the Yaesu  
29 radios, do you know the names of the commanders he was

- 1 communicating with?
- 2 A. He was communicating with Issa and Morris Kallon.
- 3 Q. Anyone else that you recall him communicating with?
- 4 A. Those were the names - those are the names I can remember.
- 5 Q. On the Yaesu radios, can you tell us, are all of the
- 6 commanders normally communicating on the same channel?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Was there someone in Buedu monitoring those channels?
- 9 A. There was a chief signal operator called Zedman. He
- 10 monitored all the radio channels.
- 11 Q. You mentioned that Bockarie was on the satellite phone with
- 12 Benjamin Yeaten, Joe Tuah - those are the names I recall. Did
- 13 you hear him talking to Benjamin Yeaten and Joe Tuah during the
- 14 Freetown fighting?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Do you know when the Freetown fighting occurred?
- 17 A. It started in January. It was on 6 January that they
- 18 called from the State House saying they were in control of the
- 19 State House.
- 20 Q. What year?
- 21 A. That was in 1999, sir.
- 22 Q. When Bockarie called Yeaten did you hear any of the
- 23 conversation?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. After the calls, would Bockarie ever discuss with you what
- 26 he had talked to Yeaten about?
- 27 A. He said he just explained about the operation, how the men
- 28 were progressing.
- 29 Q. Did Bockarie ever indicate whether he got any instruction

1 from Yeaten, or anyone else in Liberia, during that offensive?

2 A. Coordinating in which way? I want you to explain, sir.

3 Q. Let me try the question again because I didn't say  
4 coordinating. Did Bockarie ever indicate whether he got any  
5 instruction from Liberia during the Freetown fighting?

6 MR ANYAH: Madam President -

7 A. He only communicated to Benjamin Yeaten.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just pause, Mr Witness.

9 MR ANYAH: I object to the form of the question. Counsel  
10 is tacitly, or indirectly, leading the witness with phrases like  
11 "instructions" and this has been going on for a while. He could  
12 easily just ask the witness what Bockarie told the witness was  
13 the nature of these calls.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, there have been a few  
15 objections to leading. There are implications in some of the  
16 wordings you use. Please reword these questions to avoid any  
17 form of leading.

18 MR KOUMJIAN:

19 Q. What did Bockarie tell you, or what did you hear him say to  
20 Benjamin Yeaten?

21 A. I heard Bockarie and Benjamin Yeaten conversing about the  
22 progressive move that RUF has made. I didn't hear any  
23 instruction from Benjamin Yeaten to Bockarie to say do this, or  
24 do that, at that time.

25 Q. Thank you. During the fighting in Freetown, in the January  
26 offensive, did you play any part in that? What was your  
27 assignment?

28 A. I told you that I was assigned to Segbwema, Bunumbu, just  
29 in case any wounded soldier comes, I will take that wounded

1 soldier to Buedu where he could be treated at the rear. Even  
2 Mano, I made civilians to make a hammock so they can take him to  
3 Buedu.

4 Q. How close to Freetown did you get?

5 A. I did not go to Freetown.

6 Q. Now, you mentioned one trip you took to Foya with Bockarie  
7 in a helicopter. How many trips total did you take? Is that the  
8 only time you saw a helicopter in Foya with Bockarie?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Were there other times that Bockarie went to Foya and met a  
11 helicopter?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you tell us about those?

14 A. I told you that before he went to Monrovia the helicopter -  
15 Joe Tuah used to come to Foya to pick him up with the helicopter  
16 to Monrovia and during the Freetown invasion he went to Monrovia  
17 with that helicopter. He spent a day there. That was the time  
18 he came with the Toyota Land Cruiser that I told you about, the  
19 ash colour. The other was he carried a wounded soldier, one  
20 wounded soldier, seriously wounded. The helicopter took him from  
21 Foya to Monrovia.

22 Q. So when he came back during the Freetown invasion, you said  
23 he went to Monrovia and he came back, did he bring back any  
24 message?

25 A. The message was he should maintain the controlled areas of  
26 the RUF.

27 Q. Okay, can you explain then. You said the message was, "He  
28 should maintain", first who was the message from?

29 A. He said the message had come from President Taylor, that he

1 should maintain the RUF and to maintain the controlled areas of  
2 the RUF.

3 Q. Who said, just to be clear, who said that the message had  
4 come from President Taylor?

5 A. Sam Bockarie, Sam Bockarie, sir, Sam Bockarie.

6 Q. Thank you, now it is clear. Did Sam Bockarie pass that  
7 message to anyone?

8 A. Yes. He talked to Issa, Morris Kallon.

9 Q. Sir, when you were with the RUF did you become aware of any  
10 strategies to deal with attacks from jets?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you tell us about those RUF strategies?

13 A. The strategy was you should not cook during the day time.  
14 You should not set fire during the day. You do not launder and  
15 hang the clothes on a line. You are not entitled to rear chicken  
16 in the town. You are not entitled to keep a dog, because those  
17 things, when the jet discovers them they can operate.

18 Q. Was there any strategy involving radios?

19 A. The strategy was the monitor - Zedman monitored the radio  
20 stations from the Nigerian ECOMOG who were based in Lungi. Also  
21 Memunatu and Sita, they monitored from Monrovia. If a jet takes  
22 off from Monrovia on the RIA - because Victor Malu, who was the  
23 first commander, was staying in Monrovia - so they will call  
24 "448", so the radio operator would ring a bell and everybody  
25 would escape. That was the only strategy that I knew about.

26 MR KOUMJIAN: Some of these names we have spelt before.

27 Si tu, S-I-T-U, Memunatu, M-A-M-A-N-T-U:

28 Q. Sir, you said RIA, what do you mean by RIA?

29 A. The international airport of Liberia.

- 1 Q. You mentioned a Victor Malu. Who is Victor Malu, M-A-L-O?
- 2 A. He was the ECOMOG force commander in Liberia.
- 3 Q. Excuse me, it is M-A-L-U I understand.
- 4 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, there was a word the witness  
5 mentioned before the letters "448", a word or a name.
- 6 A. It is a radio code. It is a radio code the radio operator  
7 used for the jet, called "448".
- 8 MR KOUMJIAN:
- 9 Q. So what does that mean when you hear over the radio "448"?
- 10 A. If the radio communication says "448" it means the jet is  
11 up.
- 12 Q. You talked about some men coming with Bockarie when he  
13 first arrived in Buedu after your arrival. Did you ever see any  
14 other arrivals of manpower into Sierra Leone?
- 15 A. Yes, later some more men followed.
- 16 Q. Do you recall when that was approximately?
- 17 A. That was after the Freetown and Kono invasions. Another  
18 150 men came with Mazhar and Sampson.
- 19 Q. What happened to those men?
- 20 A. The men were dispatched into another group of the RUF.
- 21 Q. Sir, you mentioned, when we were back and talking about the  
22 meetings before you left Liberia, that you had met an Ibrahim  
23 Bah. Did you ever see Mr Ibrahim Bah in Sierra Leone?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Where was it that you saw Mr Bah?
- 26 A. I saw Mr Bah in Kono with Eddie Kanneh and CR.
- 27 Q. Do you remember which year that was?
- 28 A. That was during Issa Sesay's administration, sir.
- 29 Q. Well, can you estimate which year, or years, it might have

- 1    been?
- 2    A.    That was in 2000, sir.
- 3    Q.    Who was CR?
- 4    A.    CR was the bodyguard to general Ibrahim Bah.
- 5    Q.    Can you describe him?
- 6    A.    He was slim and tall. He is Liberian.
- 7    Q.    When Ibrahim Bah - when you saw him in Kono, what was he  
8    doing if you know?
- 9    A.    Ibrahim Bah and some Lebanese, four of them they came to  
10   Kono with Eddie Kanneh to Issa Sesay, to get the RUF diamonds.
- 11   Q.    Did they bring anything?
- 12   A.    They only brought a car.
- 13   Q.    Sir, you talked about Sam Bockarie being with the RUF, do  
14   you know - were you present when he - did he stay with the RUF  
15   the whole time you were with the RUF?
- 16   A.    Who?
- 17   Q.    It was not a very good question. Let me try again. Did  
18   Sam Bockarie stay with the RUF in Sierra Leone the entire time  
19   you were in Sierra Leone?
- 20   A.    Yes.
- 21   Q.    Did he ever leave the RUF in Sierra Leone?
- 22   A.    Yes.
- 23   Q.    Do you remember about when that was?
- 24   A.    That was after the Lome Peace Accord because he and Foday  
25   Saybana Sankoh had an argument. He said he will never disarm to  
26   the Nigerian ECOMOG until they bring a UN Peace Keeping Force, so  
27   Foday Sankoh ordered that he be arrested.
- 28   Q.    Was he arrested?
- 29   A.    No.



- 1 Q. What did he do?
- 2 A. He crossed over to Liberia.
- 3 Q. When Sam Bockarie went to Liberia who became in charge of  
4 the RUF?
- 5 A. Foday Saybana Sankoh himself was in charge of the RUF.
- 6 Q. Who took Bockarie's position?
- 7 A. It was Issa Sesay.
- 8 Q. During the time that Issa Sesay took over, what was your  
9 assignment?
- 10 A. Issa Sesay assigned me to a mining camp by the Sewafe River  
11 called Sandia.
- 12 MR KOUJIAN: That is S-A-N-D-I-A.
- 13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, I have heard that quite  
14 clearly, but we have had a request to spell slowly so in future  
15 if you could spell slowly, please, for the record.
- 16 MR KOUJIAN: I believe he said Sewafe River.
- 17 A. Sewafe River.
- 18 MR KOUJIAN: That is S-E-W-A-F-E:
- 19 Q. When Issa Sesay took over from Bockarie did he ever make  
20 any trips outside of Sierra Leone to your knowledge?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. What do you know about any trips by Issa Sesay outside of  
23 Sierra Leone?
- 24 A. The trip was after the 8 May incident that took place in  
25 Freetown, after we had arrested the Zambian and the Kenyan  
26 peacekeepers in Makeni.
- 27 Q. Which year are you speaking of now?
- 28 A. 2000.
- 29 Q. I think we will come in more detail to this very soon. You

1 mentioned peacekeepers, sir, during the time you were with the  
2 RUF did you become aware of any incidents of peacekeepers -  
3 involving peacekeepers?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you tell us about the first one?

6 A. The first one, after the capture of Kono the Nigerian  
7 ECOMOGs were captured, 11 peacekeepers were captured under  
8 ECOMOG. They were in Buedu in the dungeons.

9 Q. When you say this was after the capture of Kono, is this  
10 after the Kono attack that you spoke about before involving  
11 Christmas day?

12 A. Yes, after the Kono attack.

13 Q. And how many -

14 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Did the witness say 11 peacekeepers were  
15 captured under ECOMOG, is that what he said?

16 A. Yes, in Kono.

17 MR KOUMJIAN:

18 Q. Sir, when you say that, who were the peacekeepers?

19 A. They were the Nigerian ECOMOGs, sir.

20 Q. Who captured them?

21 A. The RUF. They were captured by General Issa.

22 Q. Was this during the time that Sam Bockarie was in Liberia,  
23 or after that time?

24 A. At that time Sam Bockarie was the commander in charge.

25 Q. What happened to the 11 peacekeepers after they were  
26 captured?

27 A. The 11 peacekeepers were later released into Liberia.

28 Q. I want to go slowly. After they were captured, before they  
29 were released, where were they taken?

1 A. They were arrested in Kono. They were captured in Kono as  
2 war prisoners and they were taken to Buedu at the military police  
3 headquarters by Kaisoko and they were under his control. In  
4 Buedu we had a hole that we dug, a big hole, where we put - we  
5 used ladders to put prisoners into the hole. In the RUF town  
6 they called it dungeon.

7 Q. You mentioned that these prisoners were released. Do you  
8 know what happened to lead to their release?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you tell the judges what you know about that?

11 A. Yes, the peacekeepers - Benjamin Yeaten and Sam Bockarie we  
12 had a meeting first at Dawa. Benjamin Yeaten told Sam Bockarie  
13 that Charles Taylor said if he releases the peacekeepers to him  
14 in Liberia and then Sam Bockarie - and Sam Bockarie never  
15 hesitated, but he didn't release them the same day. Benjamin  
16 Yeaten went to Foya. We drove back to Buedu. After a couple of  
17 days Sam Bockarie said he had a call from Benjamin Yeaten  
18 instructing him that it is an order from the president,  
19 Charles Taylor, to release the peacekeepers and then we drove  
20 with the peacekeepers, along with Mazhar, Sampson, to Foya where  
21 we met Benjamin Yeaten and Joe Tuah where the peacekeepers were  
22 handed over, the 11 ECOMOGs.

23 Q. Thank you. You mentioned these meetings in Dawa, D-A-W-A,  
24 what is Dawa?

25 A. It is a borderline town. It is a crossing point between  
26 Liberia and Sierra Leone.

27 Q. Were you aware of another incident involving peacekeepers?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. When did that occur?

1 A. That happened when Sam Bockarie was no longer in charge.

2 It was General Issa Sesay.

3 Q. Do you remember which year that was?

4 A. That was in 2000, sir.

5 Q. Can you tell us what you know about that second incident?

6 A. That was Augustine Gbao. They said they arrested three  
7 SBUs in Makeni and they were forcefully taken to the disarmament  
8 camp and so the Lome Peace Accord never said they should force  
9 any combatants to disarm, so that brought about the idea of us  
10 arresting the Kenyans and the Zambians.

11 MR KOUMJIAN: Gbao, Augustine Gbao, the family name is  
12 G-B-A-O:

13 Q. How many peacekeepers - you said Kenyans and Zambians, how  
14 many of them were arrested by the RUF?

15 A. Roughly about 500, the whole Zambian troops.

16 Q. Did Issa Sesay speak about his feelings about this  
17 incident?

18 A. Issa Sesay was the commander, but Foday Sankoh was in  
19 Freetown when all of us, the front line commanders, we expected  
20 to get orders that we should release the people, but we never had  
21 the orders and then Issa told us to take the people to Number 11  
22 Plant in Kono.

23 MR KOUMJIAN: Number 11 Plant is spelt the word "number"  
24 and the digits 11:

25 Q. How long were these peacekeepers held?

26 A. The peacekeepers were there until the attack took place at  
27 Foday Sankoh's house in Freetown.

28 Q. Again, you mentioned this was the year 2000. Do you know  
29 what month it was?

1 A. That happened in May.

2 Q. What happened then with the peacekeepers after the attack  
3 on Sankoh's house?

4 A. We got Dennis Mingo, who was called Superman, and Gibril  
5 Massaquoi and one bodyguard to Foday Saybana Sankoh who was  
6 called Ray. He was the Black Guard commander. They retreated  
7 from Freetown and then we got them. We met with them Gbere  
8 Junction. That was the time they reached amongst us, they  
9 entered our midst, and I drove them to Makeni and then they said  
10 Foday Saybana Sankoh gave them message that Issa Sesay should  
11 take charge of the RUF.

12 MR KOUMJIAN: Just a spelling, Gbere Junction, Gbere is  
13 G-B-E-R-E:

14 Q. After the message came from Sankoh that Issa Sesay should  
15 be in charge, what happened with the peacekeepers?

16 A. The peacekeepers were still under their control and we saw  
17 Mazhar and Jungle, they came for Issa Sesay in Makeni. We drove  
18 to the border. They crossed into Liberia. When Issa Sesay came  
19 back he brought a satellite phone. He called a meeting in Makeni  
20 at the military police headquarters at the roundabout because we  
21 were using the old bank in Makeni. So he spoke to all the  
22 commanders. He said, "Charles Taylor said we should release the  
23 peacekeepers over to him in Liberia", and then now he never had  
24 any alternative but for us to release the peacekeepers. So we  
25 took the peacekeepers, we drove them to the border and then they  
26 were handed over to Benjamin Yeaten and then Joe Tuah again in  
27 Foya.

28 Q. When Issa Sesay came back from Liberia you said he brought  
29 a satellite phone. Did he indicate where he got the satellite

1 phone?

2 A. He said the satellite phone was issued to him by  
3 Charles Taylor and then with the satellite phone he came with 50  
4 boxes of ammunition again.

5 Q. Okay, thank you, Mr Witness. I now want to move to a  
6 different topic and that is your knowledge of diamond mining  
7 during the time you were with the RUF. You mentioned seeing  
8 diamonds with Sam Bockarie in the Boulevard Hotel. Did you ever  
9 see Sam Bockarie with diamonds once you were in Sierra Leone?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. When was that?

12 A. That was in Buedu. I saw Kennedy, the mining commander,  
13 giving diamonds to Sam Bockarie in Buedu.

14 Q. What were the diamonds contained in?

15 A. The diamonds were in the plastic, in papers, and it was  
16 sealed up.

17 Q. When you were with the RUF in Sierra Leone did you see any  
18 mining operations?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Where did you see mining operations?

21 A. In Kono.

22 Q. When you say Kono, you mean the whole district of Kono?

23 A. Yes, I mean Kono District, sir.

24 Q. Can you tell me the names of any places where you saw  
25 mining going on and, please, very slowly because I will spell  
26 each one as you say it.

27 A. One was that Number 11 Plant.

28 Q. Okay, next one?

29 A. Number 11 was -

1 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness repeat  
2 that.

3 MR KOUMJIAN: Sorry, I am going to stop you, Mr Witness.  
4 We missed something. You mentioned Number 11 Plant, what kind of  
5 mining was going on at Number 11 Plant?

6 A. That was the deep mining by machines. The Caterpillar will  
7 push and then we will get the back roller to dig the gravel up  
8 and send it behind.

9 Q. What other places do you know? Please stop after each one  
10 and I will spell it.

11 A. Then Kaisombo we had a Caterpillar that pushed people's  
12 houses that they had already built in Kaisombo. The Caterpillar  
13 do the pushing. We get civilians controlled by Peleto, who was  
14 the mining chairman of the RUF. They did two part systems.

15 Q. I am going to stop you because I think we need to take this  
16 a little bit more slowly. First you mentioned in Kosombo which -  
17 I will spell it.

18 A. Not Kosombo, it is Kaisombo, Kaisombo.

19 Q. K-A-I-S-O-M-B-O. You said that the Caterpillar would push  
20 the houses. Can you explain what you mean by that?

21 A. Yes, because the place was a town. It was Koidu Town  
22 itself. They called the river Kaisombo. Then the houses around  
23 there, that was where the Caterpillar pushed them off. It back  
24 filled to make the mining more easier for the workers. Then  
25 Opera, that was where individuals did their own - this black  
26 dirt.

27 Q. When you say - I just want to make sure we understand about  
28 pushing the houses. When the houses were pushed by the  
29 Caterpillar, what would happen to the house?

1 A. They are destroyed already and that is why the Caterpillar  
2 pushed them out.

3 Q. Now, you mentioned a second location?

4 A. That is Opera.

5 MR KOUMJIAN: We believe it is spelled like the singing  
6 theatre, O-P-E-R-A:

7 Q. Sir, you said there were individuals who would work. Can  
8 you explain what you mean by that, how you do that mining?

9 A. Now when you go and dig you get the black dirt. If you get  
10 up to about 50 bags, you get 25 bags then the RUF will have 25  
11 bags. Then you wash the RUF 25 bags first. If any diamond comes  
12 from out of that Peleto, who was responsible for maintaining  
13 that, if any diamond - if no diamond came from out of the  
14 government bags, you who dug your own you have to wash it in the  
15 presence of Peleto. If any diamond came out of there, we can  
16 also take it.

17 MR KOUMJIAN: Peleto is P-E-L-E-T-O:

18 Q. What was Peleto's position?

19 A. Peleto was the mining chairman to supervise all the mining  
20 sites.

21 Q. Earlier you had mentioned Kennedy as being the mining  
22 commander. Can you explain?

23 A. Kennedy, during Sam Bockarie's time he was in charge of the  
24 mining. When Sam Bockarie left Issa Sesay became in charge. He  
25 appointed Peleto, so Kennedy was relieved.

26 Q. Who did Peleto report to?

27 A. Peleto reported to Issa Sesay.

28 Q. When Kennedy was the mining commander who did he report to?

29 A. Kennedy reported to Sam Bockarie whilst he was in charge.



1 Q. Are there other locations besides 11 Plant and Kaisombo and  
2 Opera where you recall seeing mining operations?

3 A. Yes, I told you that I was also by the Sewafe River where  
4 divers dug. We had divers.

5 Q. For how long were you assigned to that mining at the Sewafe  
6 River?

7 A. I was assigned at the mining area until the time when I was  
8 taken to go and fight against the UN peacekeepers in Makeni.

9 Q. Well, can you - first of all, can you tell us approximately  
10 which year it was that you were working in mining?

11 A. What I saw during the mining?

12 Q. No, what year was that that you were assigned to the Sewafe  
13 River mining?

14 A. As Issa started as commander in charge.

15 Q. Thank you. For how long do you think you had that  
16 assignment? Can you estimate in weeks or months?

17 A. I think it was for about a couple of months.

18 Q. In the site where you were working what was your job?

19 A. My job was to monitor the divers who did the diving under  
20 the river. That is the Sewafe River.

21 Q. How many people were doing the diving?

22 A. Roughly we had 11 men at the mining site that did the  
23 diving, but they went three, three. They went in threes by  
24 shifts under the river. Each person was - did it for one hour.

25 Q. Who were these people that were doing the work, the diving?

26 A. They were Sierra Leoneans.

27 Q. Were they civilians, or RUF?

28 A. They were civilians, civilians.

29 Q. At the other mining sites who was doing the work?

- 1 A. Both the civilians.
- 2 Q. Were the civilians paid for that work?
- 3 A. No, but we fed them. We took care of you if you were sick,  
4 but we don't pay you.
- 5 Q. Were the civilians working in the mining ever allowed to  
6 keep the diamonds they found?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. We will come back to that in a moment. In the location of  
9 the river where you were working, was there any machinery used?
- 10 A. That was the thing I said. I said we did air lifting. We  
11 used the diving machine, but the river - it don't just go under  
12 the river. There was a machine.
- 13 Q. Can you explain to those of us who have not seen it what  
14 that machine does, how it works?
- 15 A. The machine, it had a tube and it had a face  
16 [indiscernible] that you use to dive under the river and then we  
17 had a box where we had the socket from the water that pumps  
18 straight to the box. While the machine was beating, they use the  
19 socket to suck the gravel from under the water into the box. If  
20 the box gets filled then you will come out and then we will do  
21 the washing.
- 22 Q. How many different mining sites did you know of in the Kono  
23 District?
- 24 A. The whole of Kono District was mining sites, but those were  
25 the main areas that I have called: Number 11 plant, Kaisombo,  
26 Opera and Kwakuma and Gai a. Those were all mining sites.
- 27 MR KOUMJIAN: I believe there is one new one, Gai a, and  
28 I believe it is spelled G-A-I-A:
- 29 Q. Sir, how were the diamonds - where did they go if diamonds

1 were discovered at any of these sites?

2 A. You had to take it to the mining commander, like I told  
3 you, who was Peleto and then Peleto will take it over to Issa,  
4 but if I get diamonds from the mining site where I was assigned  
5 I directly reported to Issa.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Koumjian, I think that might be an  
7 appropriate time to adjourn for lunch.

8 Mr Witness, we are now taking a break for lunch. That is  
9 one hour. You should not discuss your evidence during the lunch  
10 break. We will resume at 2.30. Please adjourn the Court.

11 [Lunch break taken at 1.30 p.m.]

12 [Upon resuming at 2.30 p.m.]

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: I notice some changes of appearances.  
14 Mr Koumjian.

15 MR KOUMJIAN: Good after, your Honours. For the  
16 Prosecution Brenda J Hollis, Leigh Lawrie, Alain Werner and  
17 myself, Nicholas Koumjian.

18 MR ANYAH: Good afternoon, your Honour, Madam President.  
19 For the Defence Morris Anyah and I am joined by my colleague  
20 Mr Terry Munyard.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, gentlemen. Mr Koumjian, you  
22 were in the process of examining in-chief this witness.

23 MR KOUMJIAN: If your Honours believe it is appropriate,  
24 what I would like to do at this point in relation to testimony  
25 that has come out is refer to a few agreed facts that concern  
26 dates about events this witness has testified to for the record  
27 and for those observing the proceedings.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: Have you - sorry, I didn't intend to  
29 interrupt. Please continue.

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Well, these were the statement of agreed  
2 facts, admitted facts in law, that the parties submitted to the  
3 Court on April 26th of last year and there were just a few of  
4 them I wanted to read into the record.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: I see. Have you indicated to Mr Anyah,  
6 that you would be making this application?

7 MR KOUMJIAN: No, but these are agreed.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, I will ask for his formal reply.

9 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President. Of course in theory  
10 we have no objection and although counsel did not advise me as  
11 such, I might be able to pull up the document from the computer  
12 terminal here, and I am in the process of trying to do that, and  
13 to the extent I am successful I will be able to follow the facts  
14 as read by counsel.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Anyah. Please proceed,  
16 Mr Koumjian, and we will also try and get copies of the relevant  
17 agreed facts.

18 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, agreed fact number 25: "In July  
19 1993 representatives from the NPFL, ULIMO and the interim  
20 government of Liberia signed a ceasefire agreement known as the  
21 Cotonou Accord", that's C-O-T-O-N-O-U, "which created the  
22 Liberian National Transitional Government."

23 26: "In August 1995 representatives of the various armed  
24 factions involved in the conflict in Liberia signed another  
25 ceasefire agreement known as the Abuja Accord."

26 Agreed fact 27: "The transitional period created in the  
27 Abuja Accord was subsequently extended to August 1996 until the  
28 installation of an elected government in 1997."

29 MR ANYAH: I am sorry to interrupt. With respect to number

1 27, what I have is slightly different from what counsel has read.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Let me try and get a copy of the relevant  
3 document.

4 MR KOUMJIAN: Just for both your Honours and counsel, this  
5 is on Court document page 5477. Then skipping ahead to fact --

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: We will come back to 27 as soon as we get  
7 a copy.

8 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, could you read a little  
9 slowly for the interpreter's sake, please.

10 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, thank you. Agreed facts 31 and 32. 31:  
11 "On about 6 January 1999 inter alia RUF and AFRC forces attacked  
12 Freetown."

13 Agreed fact 32: "On 7 July 1999 the government of Sierra  
14 Leone signed a peace agreement with the RUF in Lome, Togo (Lome  
15 Peace Agreement)."

16 Those are the ones I felt were relevant to this testimony  
17 just to put on the record. Do you want me to wait for the  
18 arrival of that page on agreed fact number 27, or I could also  
19 have this handed to the Defence?

20 MR ANYAH: It's a minor objection, but it does have a  
21 meaning that is different from the way counsel meant it. The  
22 difference was counsel's use of the words and I will read the  
23 fact if it please the Court, the way counsel read it he said,  
24 "The transitional period created in the Abuja Accord was  
25 subsequently extended to August 1996 until the installation of an  
26 elected government in 1997." What CMS 227 indicates in number 27  
27 is that it was extended in August and not to August. That's the  
28 point that I made a note of.

29 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you very much. That is correct, your

1 Honour.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well, we have agreed that and those are  
3 the agreed facts you wish read into the record, Mr Koumjian.

4 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, your Honour.

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Proceed on then with your  
6 evidence.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you.

8 Q. Mr Witness, when we broke for lunch we were talking about  
9 diamond mining in RUF territories. You had told us this morning  
10 about RUF rules concerning possession of diamonds. Did you ever  
11 witness anyone punished for breaking those rules?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was that on one occasion or more than one occasion?

14 A. Two occasions.

15 Q. Can you tell us about the first one?

16 A. The first one, it was the bodyguard that was assigned to me  
17 who was RUF. He was caught to have stolen a diamond and sold it  
18 to a Fullah man in Kono for \$5,000 and he I was arrested by Issa  
19 Sesay and Morris Kallon. They called the boy Devil, Devil, that  
20 was the name, and he was beaten in Small Lebanon until he proved  
21 that he sold the diamond. And they were expecting that I was  
22 part of that plan, but when they investigated they later knew  
23 that I was not involved. The boy never showed me the diamond.  
24 He only did it on his own and the second --

25 Q. Let me stop you and ask you a few questions about the  
26 first. Do you remember when this was that this bodyguard of  
27 yours was accused of stealing the diamond?

28 A. Yes, it was 2000.

29 Q. Was it during the time that you were involved in mining

1 yourself?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know where he got the diamond from?

4 A. He got the diamond from Opera, in Kono.

5 Q. Now you said they did an investigation and found out you  
6 were not involved. Can you explain what do you mean by that?  
7 What did they do?

8 A. Yes, when they caught the boy with the money from where he  
9 sold the diamonds Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Gbao, they did  
10 the investigation. They called the MP who was one Eddie Bockarie  
11 in Kono and when they did the investigation they realised that I  
12 was not involved at all in the transaction of the diamond and  
13 then the boy never had wanted to say the truth so he was beaten  
14 seriously and hanged on a mango tree in Small Lebanon in Issa  
15 Sesay's compound until he confessed that, yes, he sold the  
16 diamond, \$5,000 to one Fullah man from Bo and then he said he had  
17 the money and then he was asked to bring the money.

18 So to get proof of all those I don't know where he went to  
19 bring the money, because I was at the house. I was in Kokuima.  
20 Issa sent quickly asking me to report immediately. When I went  
21 he asked me, he said, "Have you seen what your bodyguard has  
22 done?" And then I said to him, "Chief, it is up to you, but you  
23 know that I am not involved." So when they got the money from  
24 him they released him.

25 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honours, Eddie Bockarie, first name is  
26 E-D-D-I-E and the same spelling of Bockarie that we have used for  
27 Mosquito.

28 PRESIDING JUDGE: And I think we also had Fullah before  
29 that?

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Yes, Fullah I believe is F-U-L-L-A-H and  
2 Kokui ma, K-O-K-U-I -M-A.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you. Please proceed.

4 MR KOUMJIAN:

5 Q. When you say they beat your bodyguard, how did they beat  
6 him?

7 A. Well, because they asked him and he started denying, but  
8 when they tortured him they beat him seriously and hang him up an  
9 a mango tree he accepted that, yes.

10 Q. How did they torture him? Explain to us?

11 A. Well, when I said they tortured him, they hang him out  
12 because in Issa Sesay's yard there was a mango tree. They tied  
13 his hands and he was beaten. So when I say tortured that was the  
14 torture.

15 Q. What was he beaten with?

16 A. Rubber. They call it cobra. It is a rubber that is  
17 normally got from car tyres.

18 Q. How many men were beating your bodyguard?

19 A. There were two men.

20 Q. Okay, thank you. Now can you tell us about the other  
21 incident that you observed?

22 A. The other incident was one Kono boy in Kokui ma, he was  
23 working for Morris Kallon. They said he stole a diamond and so  
24 Morris Kallon arrested him and then he asked the boy. The boy  
25 refused to answer and then he was hanged on the mango tree. He  
26 was beaten to death in Kono in Small Lebanon. That was the  
27 second incident that I knew about.

28 Q. You said this Kono boy was working for Morris Kallon and  
29 Kallon is K-A-L-L-O-N. Was he a member of the RUF?



- 1 A. No, he was civilian.
- 2 Q. About how old was he?
- 3 A. He was in his 30s.
- 4 Q. What was he beaten with?
- 5 A. The same rubber that I referred to as cobra.
- 6 Q. How many people beat him?
- 7 A. Three men beat him.
- 8 Q. Did he die while he was still hung on the tree?
- 9 A. Yes, the place where he was beaten was where he died.
- 10 Q. Did you ever see Issa Sesay with diamonds?
- 11 A. Yes, I saw Issa Sesay with diamonds.
- 12 Q. Can you tell us when or at what times you remember seeing  
13 Issa Sesay with diamonds?
- 14 A. I saw Issa Sesay with diamonds whilst he was on his way to  
15 Liberia in his residence in Small Lebanon. He had them in the  
16 paper together with Kennedy and Peleto. They were doing some  
17 checkings among the diamonds. From there he gathered the  
18 diamonds and then placed it in the medicine plastic bags. That  
19 is the one that I know about.
- 20 Q. Thank you. Can you help us - can you give us any idea of  
21 when this happened?
- 22 A. That happened in 2000.
- 23 Q. Besides diamonds, in Kailahun District did the RUF have any  
24 other business?
- 25 A. Yes, the next business was cocoa.
- 26 Q. Can you tell us how the cocoa business worked?
- 27 A. We had civilians that would harvest the cocoa from the tree  
28 and then we would split them open, they would dry the cocoa and  
29 then they would take the cocoa to Kolahun. There was a Lebanese

1 man there in Kolahun who used to buy cocoa and coffee.

2 Q. Where is Kolahun, in which country?

3 A. Kolahun. Kolahun, sir. In Liberian, sir.

4 Q. Kolahun is spelled K-O-L-A-H-U-N. How would the cocoa be  
5 taken to Kolahun?

6 A. They had a truck. When they put the cocoa into the bag  
7 they would pack them into the truck and then they would drive to  
8 Kolahun in Liberia.

9 Q. Now, sir, when we discussed your first trip to Buedu we  
10 talked about some check points. During the entire time that you  
11 were with the RUF would there be check points between Buedu and  
12 Foya?

13 A. Yes, the three check points were still there.

14 Q. How about on the Sierra Leone side of the border?

15 A. The Sierra Leone side of the border was controlled by the  
16 RUF.

17 Q. If an ordinary person, a civilian, wanted to pass from  
18 Buedu to Foya, can you tell us what they needed to do?

19 A. They passed through the normal process. They would go to  
20 the G2 and the G5, they will give you a pass that you would  
21 travel with, but if you don't have a pass you would not travel.

22 Q. Okay. When you say the G2 and the G5, can you explain to  
23 us what that means?

24 A. Those were the people who liaise between the civilians and  
25 the fighters. They controlled the civilians.

26 Q. Now are you talking about which fighters? Which group are  
27 you talking about now?

28 A. I am talking about the RUF.

29 Q. Thank you. So when the civilian would go and get the pass,

1 then what did he do?

2 A. And then they will travel, but if you don't have the pass  
3 you will not pass through the check point. That means you are  
4 trying to escape.

5 Q. Now, this pass that was issued by the RUF G2 or G5, would  
6 the border guards in Sierra Leone, the men at the border, would  
7 they recognise it and let the civilian through?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How about when you got to the Liberian check points, the  
10 three you mentioned on the way the Foya?

11 A. You will still show the same pass and then they will know  
12 that you have not escaped from the RUF controlled area.

13 Q. The people that were manning these check points in Liberia  
14 were who again?

15 A. They were Liberians.

16 Q. From which units?

17 A. The AFL and the Liberian national police and the customs.

18 Q. Thank you. I now want to move to a different area and ask  
19 you, Mr Witness, about any RUF operations you were involved in  
20 outside of Sierra Leone. Can you tell us were you involved in  
21 operations by the RUF outside the borders of Sierra Leone?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Let's talk about the first one. Can you tell us the first  
24 operation you were involved in?

25 A. The first operation was Mosquito Spray, 1999, August, when  
26 they attacked Liberia from Voinjama and Kolahun. That was the  
27 first operation that I took part in.

28 Q. When you used the words Mosquito Spray, can you explain to  
29 those not familiar with it, what is Mosquito Spray?

1 A. Mosquito Spray was one commander of the LURD rebels who  
2 entered into Liberia. That was the name that he called himself,  
3 he said Mosquito spray. He said he was in Liberia to spray the  
4 AFL and the national police and to remove Charles Taylor from  
5 power.

6 Q. Okay. Now, you mentioned Mosquito - excuse me, but the  
7 name Mosquito, was there more than one Mosquito?

8 A. The name Mosquito Spray of LURD rebels.

9 Q. Thank you. But you mentioned before Sam Bockarie being  
10 called Mosquito, is that right?

11 A. Sam Bockarie was Mosquito, but this one is Mosquito Spray  
12 of LURD rebels.

13 Q. I understand that. Was there another Mosquito on the  
14 Liberian side of the border?

15 A. Yes, that was Liberian Mosquito. They call him Christopher  
16 Varmoh of the NPFL.

17 Q. Okay. Varmoh is V-A-R-M-O-H. Mr Witness, do you know the  
18 real name of the LURD rebel who called himself Mosquito Spray?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Thank you. Can you tell us how did the RUF get involved in  
21 that operation against Mosquito Spray?

22 A. Sam Bockarie contacted us in the morning to prepare  
23 ourselves to move to Foya. He said because LURD rebel Mosquito  
24 Spray had already attacked Voinjama and Kolahun. So Benjamin  
25 Yeaten said we should move. So he got the instructions from  
26 Benjamin Yeaten. So he called Issa Sesay and Morris Kallon for  
27 us to move and implement this operation in Liberia. And then he,  
28 Sam Bockarie, said - and he was busy in Foya and then the  
29 Liberian commander that we based in Foya he was called Stanley,

1 Colonel Stanley of the AFL. He was the commander in charge of  
2 Foya.

3 Q. Okay, thank you. Mr Witness, a few questions about this.  
4 First, can you help us by letting us know when this happened,  
5 when the RUF was involved in the operation against Mosquito  
6 Spray?

7 A. That was what I said. I said August 1999, sir.

8 Q. Thank you. Now you said Sam Bockarie indicated he had  
9 gotten this information - instructions, you said - from Benjamin  
10 Yeaten. Do you know who Benjamin Yeaten reported to?

11 A. Benjamin Yeaten reported to Taylor, sir.

12 Q. Did you go and fight then in Liberia?

13 A. Yes, we fought against the LURD rebels against Mosquito  
14 Spray and we took over Kolahun and then we took over Voinjama.  
15 That was a successful mission for us. And then Benjamin Yeaten,  
16 Sam Bockarie and the defence minister Daniel Chea, they arrived  
17 on helicopter in Voinjama and then they were flown to Monrovia,  
18 sir.

19 Q. In that operation in Liberia which RUF commanders were  
20 involved?

21 A. That is what I am saying. It was Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon  
22 and then the overall commander was Sam Bockarie who was based at  
23 Foya.

24 Q. Were there other units besides RUF that were fighting  
25 together against Mosquito Spray?

26 A. Yes, they were the AFL whom I told you that there their  
27 commander was Colonel Stanley, the battalion commander in Foya,  
28 and the police and the ATU. We all did the operation to clear  
29 off Mosquito Spray from Kolahun and Voinjama.

1 Q. I don't believe we have discussed the ATU before. Can you  
2 tell the judges what the ATU unit is?

3 A. From the SSU, when the SSU was dissolved they formed the  
4 ATU which were the special mansion guards assigned to Charles  
5 Taylor at the mansion.

6 Q. So it's the same as the SSU, but just the name changed. Is  
7 that correct?

8 A. Yes, to ATU.

9 Q. So of all these units that were involved, the AFL, the ATU,  
10 the RUF, was there any overall commander?

11 A. The overall commander we had was Benjamin Yeaten. He was  
12 the field supervisor for us.

13 Q. Okay, thank you. Now I would like to move to the second  
14 operation that you were involved in. Were you involved in a  
15 second operation outside of the borders of Sierra Leone with RUF?

16 A. What? Come back. Please repeat.

17 Q. Certainly. I have now finished asked you about the  
18 Mosquito Spray operation - sorry, but we're getting the  
19 interpretation on the channel.

20 Okay, let me start again, Mr Witness. I apologise. So I  
21 am finished now asking you about Mosquito Spray and I am asking  
22 you were you involved in any other operations outside of the  
23 borders of Sierra Leone with the RUF?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What was the next one?

26 A. The next one, after releasing the peacekeepers which were  
27 the Zambians and the Kenyans, when Issa Sesay came with the 50  
28 boxes of ammunition we moved from Makeni to Kamakwie and then the  
29 commander who was in Kokuiima, who was called Colonel Komba

1 Gbundema, he was the commander in Kamakwie and then we used the  
2 Kabbah ferry, we went to Madina Wola, we attacked Madina Wola in  
3 Guinea and then in that attack we incurred more casualties.

4 Q. Okay. What year did this occur then? You said it was the  
5 time of the peacekeepers in Makeni that were taken captive?

6 A. That was 2000.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Just a few spellings. The witness mentioned  
8 Kamakwie, K-A-M-A-K-U-I-E and he mentioned a name Komba Gbundema,  
9 first name K-O-M-B-A, second name G-B-U-N-D-E-M-A.

10 Q. In that operation after you crossed the river were you  
11 inside then Guinea?

12 A. Yes, we attacked Madina Wola on a Sunday.

13 MR KOUMJIAN: Madina Wola is M-A-D-I-N-A and the second  
14 part W-O-L-A. Two words.

15 Q. Who were you fighting against in that operation?

16 A. In that operation we were fighting against the Guinean  
17 army.

18 Q. Who was commanding the RUF forces?

19 A. It was Short Bai Bureh.

20 MR KOUMJIAN: Short is spelt S-H-O-R-T, Bai B-A-I, Bureh  
21 B-U-R-E-H.

22 Q. Can you tell me if any other commanders - if you recall the  
23 names of any other commanders involved in that operation?

24 A. The commanders were many. We had Kennedy who also incurred  
25 serious injury. They had this guy that I called Komba Gbundema  
26 because we passed through his own territory and then we even lost  
27 another commander who was called Olu.

28 MR KOUMJIAN: I believe Olu is O-L-U.

29 Q. Sir, did you receive any information - were you told why

1 RUF was going to Guinea, attacking Guinea at that time?

2 A. Issa Sesay said Charles Taylor informed him that we should  
3 give him grounds in Guinea so that the time for the disarmament  
4 into Sierra Leone, some of arms we had would be crossed over into  
5 Guinea for safekeeping.

6 Q. What were the results of that operation?

7 A. In the operation we attacked Madina Wola, we fought over  
8 Madina Wola and then we even killed one of the Guinean commanders  
9 who was called Colonel Kanigba Bangura. We captured his car, one  
10 Nissan Patrol jeep, and the commander of the mission himself, we  
11 used him and we captured two millimetre weapons that used  
12 electronics current batteries.

13 Q. Did you suffer many casualties among the RUF?

14 A. We had more casualties. That was the reason why we didn't  
15 make it up in the operations, we decided to move back, because  
16 the Guineans were using the military helicopter and the jets to  
17 bombard the borderline.

18 Q. After you returned to Sierra Leone. Is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What was the next operation you took part in with RUF  
21 outside the borders of Sierra Leone?

22 A. The next operation was Dennis Mingo, alias Superman. When  
23 we moved from Kono we attacked Guinea closer to Kissidou. We  
24 went in between Kissidou and Gueckedou and then they had a  
25 refugee camp there where both Liberians and Sierra Leoneans were  
26 based. They call it Toma refugee camp and Yende refugee camp.

27 Q. Thank you. Mr Witness, I am going to spell a few words.

28 First you mentioned Kissidou. That is we believe

29 K-I-S-S-I-D-O-U-G-O-U. And then Gueckedou, again it is



1 G-U-E-C-K-E-D-O-U with accents over the Es. You mentioned Dennis  
2 Mingo. Was he the - what was his role in that attack?

3 A. He was the commander that led the troops from Kono to cross  
4 into Guinea.

5 Q. In that --

6 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Sorry, Mr Koumjian, there was a name of a  
7 refugee camp that you did not spell.

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, Toma and Yende refugee camps in Guinea.

9 MR KOUMJIAN: Toma I believe is T-O-M-A and the second word  
10 I believe the witness said was Yende, Y-E-N-D-E.

11 Q. What kind of people were in those refugee camps?

12 A. They were both Liberians and Sierra Leoneans.

13 Q. Who were you fighting against in that operation?

14 A. We were fighting against the Guinea government.

15 Q. And how long do you think you were in Guinea that time?

16 A. We spent a month.

17 Q. Did you return to Sierra Leone?

18 A. We retreated to Sierra Leone.

19 Q. What was the next operation that you were involved in with  
20 RUF outside the borders of Sierra Leone?

21 A. We moved to Kono. From there Issa provided transport for  
22 every one of us and we moved to Liberia and we were in Foya where  
23 we met Colonel Benjamin Yeaten and he said, "Guys, everybody  
24 should get ready for the operation." He said, "This time around  
25 we have to take Gueckedou." so we used the Solomon crossing  
26 point. That is the crossing point between Liberia and Gueckedou  
27 they call Solomon.

28 Q. So you were crossing into Guinea from Liberia, is that  
29 correct?

1 A. Yes, we used Liberia to cross.

2 Q. Mr Witness, when you say you crossed, which units were  
3 involved in that operation?

4 A. It was a joint operation. The RUF, the AFL, the ATU, the  
5 police. All of us crossed --

6 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly take  
7 that again.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, can you repeat your answer a  
9 little more slowly for the interpreter, please.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay, sir. I said we used the Solomon  
11 crossing point. It is a river that you can go across. The river  
12 is called Makono river between Liberia and Guinea.

13 MR KOUMJIAN:

14 Q. You were indicating the units that were involved and we got  
15 that you told us it was the RUF, the AFL and the ATU. Then I  
16 believe you were going to tell us who was commanding the unit in  
17 the operation?

18 A. The commander was Benjamin Yeaten. The field commander was  
19 Superman and then we had different commanders. I was a  
20 commander, Matthew Barbue was a commander, was Mark Gwon was a  
21 commander. Then I think the operation was planned and signed by  
22 Issa Sesay and Benjamin Yeaten and then I think I gave a copy of  
23 that to the Prosecution. I wish you can help me with the copy to  
24 identify them to the judges.

25 Q. Thank you, Mr Witness. There are some spellings. Matthew  
26 Bobo is B-A-R-B-U-E and Mark Gwon, the second name is G-W-O-N and  
27 indeed, Mr Witness, I do have a document that would be  
28 appropriate to show you now and that is on tab 24, if that could  
29 be shown to the witness.

1 Sir, you now have been shown this document under tab 24  
2 that has the title "Operation Order." Do you recognise this  
3 document?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. Just to be clear, you told us you were not - you did not  
6 have the opportunity for education, so you cannot read it, but  
7 you can recognise it, is that correct?

8 A. I can recognise it, but I can't read it.

9 Q. Okay. I may ask you about some names. First of all, do  
10 you remember approximately when this operation took place?

11 A. Yes, it was in 2001.

12 Q. The document, for the record, is dated 20 January 2001. In  
13 the first paragraph it indicates, "All revolutionary forces from  
14 reaction force is here commanded by Brigadier General Mark Gwon."  
15 Who was Mark Gwon?

16 A. Mark Gwon was AFL.

17 Q. The second paragraph: "All revolutionary brothers Dragon  
18 Forces is here commanded by Major General Matthew Barbue" and  
19 this is the same man you have mentioned previously?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you know what Dragon Forces meant?

22 A. Yes, it was a unit. He was the commander of that unit.

23 Q. Well, you told us previously in your testimony that Matthew  
24 Barbue was a Liberian RUF commander. Is that right?

25 A. Yes.

26 Q. Do you know whether or not - and if you don't know please  
27 say so, do you know what kind of troops were in the Dragon  
28 Forces?

29 A. That was the RUF, sir.

1 Q. And then it indicates: "Operation order number 1, combat  
2 forces operation code No Taking Side." Did you ever hear that  
3 code name before?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What did they say about that?

6 A. That means that we should not take sides. When we met  
7 anything that cross us, we should wait to face it, sir.

8 Q. It says, "Operation commander Major General Matthew Barbue,  
9 deputy commander Brigadier General Mark Gwon. Revolutionary  
10 brothers behind enemy lines forces name Scorpion unit is here  
11 commanded by Major General Keita." Who is that?

12 A. That's me, General Abu Keita.

13 Q. It states, "Deputy commander Scorpion unit Brigadier  
14 General Alpha Omaisелеki" and for the record --

15 A. Omaisелеki.

16 Q. For the record it is spelt on the document  
17 O-M-A-I-S-E-L-E-K-I. Who was he?

18 A. He was a Guinean soldier.

19 Q. Okay, I am not going to go through the entire document,  
20 Mr Witness, but on the bottom left it indicates distribution  
21 number 1 unit 50. Do you understand what it means by unit 50?

22 A. That was chief Benjamin Yeaten, he and his bodyguard.

23 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you. Your Honour, may that be given  
24 the next MFI number.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, that document, one page headed  
26 "Operation Order", will become marked for identification MFI-19.

27 MS IRURA: Your Honour, this is already an exhibit before  
28 the Court, P-28.

29 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you.

1           PRESIDING JUDGE: In that case it doesn't need to be marked  
2 for identification.

3           MR KOUMJIAN: Okay:

4 Q. Now, sir, during the operation you mentioned against  
5 Gueckedou do you know if Issa Sesay went anywhere?

6 A. Yes, Issa Sesay and Benjamin Yeaten left us and went to  
7 Monrovia.

8 Q. Do you know what they went there to do?

9 A. Actually I was on the front line, but they left us, boarded  
10 a helicopter from Foya to Monrovia, the helicopter.

11 Q. Did they ever tell you who they saw in Monrovia?

12 A. When they came they told us they saw Charles Taylor.

13 Q. In these operations that you have talked about and  
14 discussed in Guinea and against the LURD in Liberia, where did  
15 RUF get its ammunition?

16 A. They were supplied directly by Benjamin Yeaten.

17 Q. Okay, thank you, Mr Witness. That concludes this area of  
18 questions. I now want to ask you about another term. Have you  
19 ever heard the term SBU?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What is SBU?

22 A. SBU is the Small Boy Unit.

23 Q. What was the Small Boy Unit?

24 A. The Small Boy Unit was those boys below 15. They were  
25 children in the revolutionary force whom they called SBU.

26 Q. About how old - what ages were these children?

27 A. That is what I told you. I said from 15 downwards.

28 Q. Down to what age? What were the youngest? How old were  
29 the youngest?

- 1 A. To 10, 11, 12 years.
- 2 Q. Where did you hear that term SBU? Who used that term?
- 3 A. The SBU were with the RUF.
- 4 Q. Now do you know if - so they had units that were just  
5 composed of these younger people. Is that correct?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Were they boys or girls or both?
- 8 A. They were boys. They were girls. The girls, we call them  
9 wives.
- 10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Sorry, they called them what?
- 11 MR KOUMJIAN: Wives. Spouses.
- 12 Q. Sir, now when you fought with ULIMO were there children  
13 under 15 fighting with your forces?
- 14 A. Yes, we had children.
- 15 Q. How was that organised in ULIMO? Were they put in separate  
16 units as you have described for RUF?
- 17 A. No, they were not in separate units, but they were with us,  
18 the commanders. I myself had an SBU.
- 19 Q. So in ULIMO you didn't have a unit called the SBU. Is that  
20 right?
- 21 A. No, sir. They had SBUs, the children. We called them SBU.
- 22 Q. How about - do you know how the NPFL was organised?
- 23 A. No, sir.
- 24 Q. You don't know?
- 25 A. I don't know.
- 26 Q. Okay. Now you mentioned that you had some SBUs. What were  
27 their names and ages?
- 28 A. There was an 11 year.
- 29 Q. I'm sorry. To be clear, I am asking you about your time

1 with the RUF. Were these SBUs assigned to you when you were with  
2 the RUF?

3 A. Yes, I had two SBUs. Hassan and Mohamed. They were  
4 trained from Makeni.

5 Q. Twins?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Was that twins or trained? We have got  
8 both words in the transcript.

9 MR KOUMJIAN: I believe the witness is saying twin. Do you  
10 mean brothers born from the same mother the same --

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, the same day. Yes, the same day. Yes,  
12 there were two boys called Hassan and Mohamed.

13 MR KOUMJIAN:

14 Q. What did they do for you?

15 A. I always liked them to be around me. I was taking care of  
16 them. Wherever I went they went with me.

17 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
18 repeat that last bit.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE: Mr Witness, can you repeat your last  
20 sentence, please, for the interpreter.

21 THE WITNESS: I said wherever I went I took them along with  
22 me and at present they are in Makeni. They are Temnes from  
23 Makeni.

24 MR KOUMJIAN:

25 Q. Sir, did Sam Bockarie have any SBUs among his bodyguards?

26 A. Yes, he had Sasko and Moses.

27 Q. About how old were Sasko and Moses at the time they were  
28 bodyguards for Sam Bockarie?

29 A. Sasko was 11 years old and Moses was 12 years old.

1 Q. Now you have mentioned Benjamin Yeaten. Did you ever see  
2 him with a bodyguard who appeared very young?

3 A. Yes, Benjamin Yeaten was having a bodyguard called  
4 Livingstone. He was about 11 years old.

5 Q. In the SBU units were the SBUs, the boys, trained?

6 A. Close in by way? What do you mean?

7 Q. I think we don't understand each other. Let me try again.  
8 It is my fault. Were the SBUs trained? Did they receive any  
9 training?

10 A. Yes, they received training.

11 Q. Where were they trained?

12 A. Where? The same place where the adults were being trained  
13 in Bunumbu.

14 Q. Did the SBUs take part in combat with the RUF?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell us in which operations you recall SBUs being  
17 involved?

18 A. All the operations into Sierra Leone, when you the  
19 commander moves the SBU would move with you. The only operations  
20 what we didn't take SBUs was that one in Guinea.

21 Q. How about the operation against Mosquito Spray? Were SBUs  
22 involved in that operation in Liberia?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay, thank you, Mr Witness. I now want to go and ask you  
25 about a different area. When you were with the RUF did you see  
26 any amputations take place?

27 A. No, sir.

28 Q. Did you see any persons who had suffered amputations?

29 A. Yes, but I did not see where they chopped off their hands



1 but I saw amputees.

2 Q. Now you said hands. I was just going to ask you what did  
3 you see had happened to these people? What did they look like  
4 when you saw them?

5 A. You will see a person, his hand cut off down here. And you  
6 see another, his entire fingers off and he would only have the  
7 palm. And you will see some the left chopped off, one leg. But  
8 I never saw where the cutting off was done.

9 Q. Okay, thank you. Now, sir, you have talked about some  
10 individuals and one name I believe you mentioned was Rambo. Was  
11 there more than one Rambo?

12 A. What? Repeat the question.

13 Q. I believe - let me just ask you: Do you know the name  
14 Rambo? Did you know anyone named Rambo?

15 A. Yes, I told you that he was the RUF Rambo. He was killed  
16 when the infighting took place between Issa Sesay and Dennis  
17 Mingo and he was buried in Makeni town. The coffin is still at  
18 the Makeni town hall.

19 Q. Thank you, but now I want to ask you did you know another  
20 Rambo, not RUF Rambo?

21 A. Yes, I know another Rambo who was CSO to Johnny Paul  
22 Koroma.

23 Q. Okay, was he SLA?

24 A. Yes, he was an SLA.

25 Q. Do you know what happened to the SLA - I will call him SLA  
26 Rambo. What happened to him?

27 A. SLA Rambo was in Liberia. He crossed over from Sierra  
28 Leone because he was a CSO to Johnny Paul Koroma, from what he  
29 told me, and he stopped at Alhaji Kromah's house in Congo Town

1 and then at the SKB he was picked up one day by Mahzar and he was  
2 killed.

3 Q. Do you know what SLA Rambo had done?

4 A. Actually I didn't know what he did, but what Mahzar told me  
5 was that he ran away from the RUF and was in Monrovia and so he  
6 said Sam Bockarie made the complaint to Benjamin Yeaten and  
7 Benjamin Yeaten instructed Mahzar to get rid of Rambo.

8 Q. Sir, did you know a Colonel Foday?

9 A. Yes, I know about one Colonel Foday who was SLA.

10 MR KOU MJIAN: For the record that is F-0-D-A-Y as spelled  
11 now in the LiveNote.

12 Q. Can you tell us what happened to Colonel Foday?

13 A. Colonel Foday left Kailahun for Monrovia through Vahun.  
14 They said he did not obtain a pass and they arrested him at the  
15 Freeport in Liberia and that is Sierra Leone, ECOMOG base. So he  
16 was transferred to Buedu by Mahzar and Sampson.

17 Q. What year did this happen, if you recall?

18 A. That happened before the Kono attack.

19 Q. Okay. What happened when he got to Buedu, when they  
20 brought him to Buedu?

21 A. When they brought him to Buedu he was handed over to  
22 Kaisoko, the MP commander, and then he was taken to jail. Sam  
23 Bockarie and Mosquito came and Eddie Kanneh, SB Rogers, they  
24 ordered that he should be brought and they said he should be  
25 dragged. They dragged him from the MP headquarters up to Sam  
26 Bockarie's house on Dawa highway and he was brought to Issa  
27 Sesay--

28 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, the interpreter would like  
29 to make a correction.

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Sorry, Mr Witness, please wait a moment.

2 THE INTERPRETER: He was an in-law to Issa Sesay.

3 MR KOUMJIAN:

4 Q. Are you saying, Mr Witness, that Colonel Foday was an  
5 in-law to Issa Sesay?

6 A. Yes, he was Elsie's uncle. That was the name of Issa's  
7 wife.

8 Q. Okay. What happened when he was brought there?

9 A. When they brought him they gave him - they shot him twice,  
10 Issa and Sam Bockarie. Issa shot the man on his chest and Issa -  
11 Sam Bockarie shot him on his head. They said the man left him to  
12 go to give information to the Sierra Leone ECOMOG in Monrovia.  
13 That happened in Buedu.

14 Q. Okay, thank you. I just want to go back for one more  
15 question on SLA Rambo. Can you give us an idea when that  
16 happened, when he was killed in Monrovia?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. About when?

19 A. That - it was the same 99.

20 Q. Okay, thank you. Now you have mentioned in your testimony  
21 Dennis Mingo known as Superman and that you were involved with  
22 him in the operation in Liberia in 2001 that we just mentioned.  
23 Is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What happened to Dennis Mingo?

26 A. Dennis Mingo alias Superman was in Gueckedou when the LURD  
27 rebels used the bypass road to attack Foya at our back. So we  
28 came to take Foya from the LURD rebels, then Dennis Mingo had a  
29 particle on his hand and so we retreated. So he, Dennis Mingo,

1 was taken to Monrovia for treatment. We were still fighting to  
2 gain - to take Foya again. We were unable to take Foya. After  
3 some time Dennis Mingo came back to the front line. At that time  
4 we were based in Vahun.

5 Q. Okay, Mr Witness, first you said that he had a particle on  
6 his hand. Can you explain what you mean by that?

7 A. Yes, the fragment of the RPG in Foya market. The LURD  
8 rebels attacked us.

9 Q. So he was wounded in the hand?

10 A. He was wounded on his hand. He was hit by the particle.

11 Q. What happened after Dennis Mingo came back to the front  
12 line?

13 A. Dennis Mingo came back to the front line. At that time we  
14 were fighting in Kolahun, Masanbolahun, Kamatahun, where with  
15 Benjamin Yeaten, Dopoe Menkarzon, Roland Duoh, Christopher  
16 Varmoh.

17 Q. What happened - well, first let me do some spellings, thank  
18 you. Okay, we had Dopoe Menkarzon?

19 A. No, Menkarzon.

20 Q. Thank you. The first name is D-U-O-P-O and the second name  
21 M-A-R-K-E-N-Z-E-N and Christopher Varmoh I believed we spelt  
22 previously, V-A-R-M-O-H. And I believe the witness mentioned a  
23 place called Masanbolahun, M-A-S-A-N-B-O-L-A-H-U-N. So what  
24 happened to Dennis Mingo then?

25 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Sorry, there was a second place.

26 THE WITNESS: The second, Kamatahun.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Taking my best effort, Kamatahun

28 K-A-M-A-T-A-H-U-N. I don't know if we got the spelling of Dopoe  
29 Menkarzon. It has been indicated I misspelt it. Let me respell

1 the name. The first name is D-O-P-O-E and the second name is  
2 M-E-N-K-A-R-Z-O-N.

3 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, what really might assist us  
4 is if you spelt each name as and when it's spoken, rather than to  
5 compound these lists of complicated names which we then soon  
6 forget.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, would your Honours like me to interrupt  
8 the witness when he says a name or wait until he completes the  
9 answer?

10 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Usually he has mentioned a name slowly  
11 and then, you know, added another one. If they get into five  
12 names we all get confused.

13 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, thank you:

14 Q. What happened to Superman then?

15 A. Then Superman - Benjamin Yeaten asked Superman that Charles  
16 Taylor wanted to see him in Monrovia.

17 Q. What did Superman say?

18 A. Then Superman said he had no option. He said he will go.  
19 Then Benjamin Yeaten said he shouldn't take along bodyguards. He  
20 should only take one bodyguard along.

21 Q. Then what happened?

22 A. Then the news - a medical doctor on a jeep, they called him  
23 Dr Mergona, he had a small Land Rover jeep 110 with two doors.

24 Q. Let me just stop you, Mr witness. Mergona, the doctor,  
25 M-E-R-G-O-N-A. What happened then?

26 A. Then they drove from Vahun.

27 Q. What happened then?

28 A. While we were in Vahun I saw Peanut Butter. They called  
29 him Roland Duoh. Benjamin Yeaten and Mahzar moved on Monday from

1 Vahun. On Tuesday I saw Roland Duoh. He said, "Keita, are you  
2 sitting down?" He said, "Benjamin Yeaten has killed Superman."  
3 He said, "This does not tell well." He said, "This movement is  
4 no longer revolutionary, because it's a rebel movement you can  
5 just take somebody and kill him." He said, "Before anybody is to  
6 be killed they should be able to investigate so that everybody  
7 will know the crime that person committed before they kill that  
8 person."

9 MR KOUMJIAN: The witness mentioned a name Peanut Butter  
10 known as Roland - or Roland Duoh known as Peanut Butter. The  
11 last name is D-U-O-H.

12 Q. Mr witness, did you know Superman well?

13 A. I knew Superman well.

14 Q. Did Roland Duoh or anyone tell you why Superman had been  
15 killed?

16 A. Yes, that is what I am explaining. Roland Duoh said that  
17 Benjamin Yeaten said Superman used to go to the American embassy  
18 in Monrovia.

19 Q. Okay, thank you.

20 A. So --

21 Q. I'm sorry, have you finished your answer?

22 A. No. So Roland Duoh took me from Vahun and he said we  
23 should go to Monrovia for him to know the cause of the death of  
24 Superman before I could come back to the front line.

25 Q. So did you go to Monrovia with Roland Duoh?

26 A. So Roland Duoh - yes, we drove up from Vahun to Monrovia.

27 Q. What did you do when you got to Monrovia?

28 A. When we got to Monrovia we took the weapons to Roland Duoh.  
29 From there he said we should go to Benjamin Yeaten so that they

1 will not see me there and think that I had run away from Vahun.

2 Q. So what did you do?

3 A. When we got to Benjamin Yeaten's house they said they had  
4 followed Charles Taylor and they have moved to Bassa County.

5 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the witness kindly  
6 repeat the last bit of his answer.

7 PRESIDING JUDGE: Repeat the last sentence again,  
8 Mr Witness, please, for the interpreter.

9 THE WITNESS: I said we drove up from 72nd barracks when we  
10 kept the weapons there that we brought from Vahun, we went to  
11 Roland Duoh's house, we moved to Benjamin Yeaten's house because  
12 he said he didn't want Benjamin Yeaten to think that I had just  
13 run away from Vahun, I had abandoned the ground. When we got to  
14 Benjamin Yeaten's house they said he has followed Charles Taylor  
15 in Bassa County because Charles Taylor was on a tour in Grand  
16 Bassa County.

17 Q. Okay?

18 A. So that was how I escaped to Ivory Coast.

19 Q. Okay, Mr Witness, you talked about that you took weapons  
20 from Vahun to Roland Duoh's house. Can you explain what weapons  
21 you are talking about?

22 A. The weapons that myself and the boys were using were AKs.  
23 The AKs, the RPGs, the 60s.

24 MR KOUMJIAN: Okay, and I don't know if we need a spelling  
25 of Grand Bassa, but Bassa is two Ss, B-A-S-S-A.

26 Q. So after the death of Superman you went to Ivory Coast. Is  
27 that correct?

28 A. Yes.

29 Q. Why did you go? Why did you leave Liberia and go to Ivory

1 Coast?

2 A. Because I thought all the sufferings we had gone through,  
3 one man will just arrest a commander and kill him. If I didn't  
4 escape maybe it was going to be my turn one day.

5 Q. From Ivory Coast where did you go?

6 A. I was based in Ivory Coast. From there I moved to Ghana  
7 where my uncle was living who is called Mohamed Keita.

8 Q. Now, sir, you have mentioned in your testimony Sam  
9 Bockarie, Mosquito. When was the last time you saw Sam Bockarie?

10 A. My last time was when I was in Ghana. A boy called Mike  
11 Lama that I have told you about previously who was a police  
12 officer, he came to Ghana and he said he came to look for me. He  
13 said, "Sheku, the Guinean that I have told you about, the picture  
14 that I showed to you", he said he has sent him to call me, he  
15 wanted to see me. So I asked him, I said, "Where? In Liberia?"  
16 And then he said, "No, Keita." He said it was in Burkina Faso.  
17 He said, "He gave me your transportation." So he said, "Please,  
18 we should go to Burkina Faso."

19 MR KOU MJIAN: Okay, the witness mentioned the name Mike  
20 Lama, the last name is L-A-M-A.

21 Q. Mike Lama again was the Liberian policeman, is that  
22 correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR KOU MJIAN: The witness also mentioned again Sheku.

25 Q. And that is Sheku Suwape Koroma, Mr Witness?

26 A. Yes.

27 MR KOU MJIAN: Your Honour, I do have another photograph  
28 under tab 26. It might be an appropriate time to show the  
29 witness. I would ask he be given that photograph. Again it



1 consists of a colour photograph and a black and white with a name  
2 written below it.

3 Q. Sir, do you recognise the colour photograph?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who is that?

6 A. That is the man on the picture whom I call Sheku Suwape  
7 Koroma who sent Mike Lama to call me to see him in Burkina Faso.

8 Q. When did you first see this photograph?

9 A. Well, this photograph?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. It was at that time he himself and Sam Bockarie were in  
12 trouble. That was the time Sam Bockarie gave me the pictures.

13 Q. Sorry, Sam Bockarie gave the pictures to who?

14 A. To me. The picture that himself and Sam Bockarie were on,  
15 when he himself came the next time he gave me the picture again.

16 Q. Okay, I'm sorry, Mr Witness, but just so we are clear when  
17 you say he gave me the picture, who is he that gave you the  
18 picture?

19 A. Sheku. Sheku Suwape Koroma.

20 Q. Now when they proposed to you to go to Burkina Faso did you  
21 accept?

22 A. I accepted.

23 Q. What happened then?

24 A. I went to Burkina Faso with Mike Lama and then I met this  
25 Sheku and General Adams and Sam Bockarie, but the name that he  
26 was using in Burkina Faso was Mohammed Bockarie.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Before we go further, I neglected to ask for  
28 an MFI number for the photograph.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: The colour photograph will be marked for

1 identification MFI-19A and the black and white with some  
2 handwriting will be marked for identification MFI-19B.

3 MR KOU MJIAN:

4 Q. Now, Mr Witness, when you say here that in Burkina Faso you  
5 saw Mike Lama, Sheku and General Adams with Bockarie, who do you  
6 mean by General Adams?

7 A. The general that I have told you about. He used to be the  
8 diamond agent of the RUF.

9 Q. Well, did you use another name for him before?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You testified previously about a diamond agent for the RUF  
12 named - you mentioned a couple of names, Eddie Kanneh and Ibrahim  
13 Bah. How do they relate to this --

14 MR ANYAH: An objection, Madam President, to the leading.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE: He is putting previous evidence to the  
16 witness, evidence that he said has been adduced, and I will allow  
17 that.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, please come with your question  
19 again.

20 MR KOU MJIAN:

21 Q. You mentioned before in the diamond business with RUF Eddie  
22 Kanneh and Ibrahim Bah. How do they relate to General Adams?

23 A. Sorry, they were not related to him, sir.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think, Mr Witness, the counsel doesn't  
25 mean a family relationship; something wider than that.

26 THE WITNESS: That one actually I can't tell, sir.

27 MR KOU MJIAN:

28 Q. Okay. So can you describe who you mean? Who is General  
29 Adams? What does he look like?

1           PRESIDING JUDGE: You have two questions there,  
2 Mr Koumji an.

3           MR KOUMJIAN:

4 Q.       What does General Adams - can you describe him? Let me try  
5 it again. Can you describe General Adams?

6 A.       Yes, he was a short, fat man.

7 Q.       Was he known by any other name?

8 A.       I will think about that, sir.

9 Q.       Okay. Sir, when you got to Burkina Faso, what happened in  
10 this meeting with Bockarie and the others?

11 A.       So, Sheku asked me to join them to go to Cote d'Ivoire to  
12 fight.

13 Q.       And then what else was said?

14 A.       Then I said, "Ay." I said, "Right now I am tired of  
15 fighting." And then he said to me, "You have to keep your  
16 courage and then we will join hands together again and fight."  
17 And then he said he would take me to the ground. We drove from  
18 Burkina Faso to a town called Bouake.

19 Q.       Mr Witness, I am going to stop you for a moment. First you  
20 said he drove you. Who drove you?

21 A.       Mohammed Bockarie. Mohammed Bockarie who was Sam Bockarie,  
22 but that was the name he was using in Burkina Faso.

23 Q.       And you said he took you to Bouake. I believe that is  
24 spelled B-O-U-A-C-K-E with an accent. Is that in Ivory Coast?

25 A.       Yes.

26 Q.       What did Sam Bockarie tell you he was doing in Ivory Coast?

27 A.       He was fighting alongside the brothers there, the breakaway  
28 soldiers from the Cote d'Ivoire army who were in Bouake.

29 Q.       Sir, I want to go back for a moment. This morning you

1 talked about a conversation where someone said that they asked to  
2 have an FM radio station. Do you recall that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did the RUF ever get an FM radio station?

5 A. Yes, they call it radio Freetown - Freedom and Hilton Fyle  
6 - a former BBC reporter called Hilton Fyle, he was the station  
7 Manager and the station was at Dodo Kotuma in Kailahun District.

8 MR KOUMJIAN: Hilton Fyle is spelt H-I-L-T-O-N F-Y-L-E and  
9 Dodo Kotuma D-O-D-O K-O-T-U-M-A.

10 Q. Do you know where the equipment for that station came from?

11 A. The machine for the station came from Liberia.

12 Q. Mr Witness, you also discussed the monitoring of the ECOMOG  
13 radio to alert when the jets were coming. You talked about 448,  
14 do you recall that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell us if that information was used during any  
17 operations that you recall?

18 A. I have explained. I said, yes. I said the operation  
19 during the Freetown attack, when the jets takes off from the RIA,  
20 I told you that Memunatu - and how do they call this other lady?

21 Q. It's okay, witness. You are talking about a woman in  
22 Monrovia?

23 A. Yes, she was Jungle's wife, Situ. I told you that they  
24 normally communicated. Whilst the jet took off, when it was  
25 coming they will call 448 and then the radio communicator also  
26 will ring the bell.

27 Q. Okay, Mr Witness, you mentioned that this happened during  
28 the Freetown attack. Was the information in any way transmitted  
29 to those in or near Freetown?

1 A. I told you, yes, every commander that had Yaesu radio, they  
2 always had them informed.

3 Q. I also want to go back for just a moment to the operation  
4 you talked about in Liberia with the RUF. Were you aware of any  
5 looting taking place during that operation?

6 A. No, it was not meeting. I said looting. We looted  
7 Mediciens Sans Frontieres and the Rotary World Services that was  
8 taking care of the refugees in Kolahun and Vahun.

9 Q. I see that the transcript didn't get it, but I believe the  
10 witness - did you say NGOs?

11 A. NGOs, yes. Mediciens Sans Frontieres and another  
12 organisation called Rotary World Services. They were taking care  
13 of the Sierra Leonean refugees at Kolahun camp and Vahun camp.

14 Q. When you say we looted it, which groups were involved in  
15 looting Mediciens Sans Frontieres and the other NGOs?

16 A. The RUF.

17 Q. Did you know if that was information that was - I will  
18 withdraw the question.

19 Your Honour, I have just one other area to cover and I  
20 think that would take about 15 minutes, but this would be an  
21 appropriate area to break.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: We sit until 4.30.

23 MR KOUMJIAN: Oh, I am sorry. I have got another  
24 half-an-hour.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: We sit until 4.30.

26 MR KOUMJIAN: Thank you, sorry. Time is passing very  
27 slowly:

28 Q. Sir, I want to go back now to Sam Bockarie. Can you tell  
29 us do you know what happened to Sam Bockarie?

1 A. Sam Bockarie - I was in Sierra Leone 2003. I saw Sam  
2 Bockarie's younger brother, called Amadou, and then I saw Sam  
3 Bockarie's wife's elder sister, who was called Kadie.

4 Q. Did you talk to them about Sam Bockarie?

5 A. I spoke to them. They said Sam Bockarie was killed by  
6 Benjamin Yeaten and his children.

7 MR KOUMJIAN: One moment, please. Amadou is-A-M-A-D-O-U  
8 and Kadie K-A-D-I-E:

9 Q. Did they give you any information about how that happened?  
10 Any more details about the killing?

11 A. The detail they gave me was that they said Benjamin Yeaten  
12 called them, he called Sam Bockarie, and by then I was at ELWA  
13 junction and inside ELWA there was Sam Bockarie's wife and the  
14 mother. And then they said they took them to Nimba County and  
15 they said Sam Bockarie wanted to see them, but that he was not  
16 ready to come to Monrovia, but that they should meet at the  
17 border in Nimba.

18 According to the brother and sisters and both of them, he  
19 said if they went there that was where Benjamin Yeaten he shot  
20 Sam Bockarie's wife, Mahawa, so he says Sam Bockarie started  
21 shouting, screaming, he said, "Oh, chief, what has happened?  
22 What has happened?", and then they said they shot he himself.  
23 So, they had a chance to run away and so that was how they  
24 managed to get to Freetown. So, they were the ones who explained  
25 that to me in Freetown. So, that is the story I know about Sam  
26 Bockarie's death.

27 MR KOUMJIAN: Mahawa, the wife, we believe is spelt  
28 M-A-H-A-W-A:

29 Q. Mr Witness, is that the name of Sam Bockarie's wife,

1 Mahawa?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And who told you that they then ran away after Bockarie was  
4 shot?

5 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am not clear who the "they" is that did  
6 the running, because - and I also would seek clarification when  
7 he said, "Sam Bockarie was killed by Benjamin Yeaten and his  
8 children", does that mean Sam Bockarie's children, or Yeaten's  
9 children?

10 MR KOUMJIAN:

11 Q. Mr Witness, we will just go through it again slowly and try  
12 not to use "he" or "they". Try to use the names. Can you tell  
13 us what Amadou and --

14 A. Kadie.

15 Q. -- Kadie told you about how Sam Bockarie died?

16 A. Yes, that is the thing I have explained, because Amadou was  
17 an ATU. He was Sam Bockarie's brother from the same mother, but  
18 not from the same father.

19 Q. Amadou, did he tell you he was with Sam Bockarie when Sam  
20 Bockarie was killed? That Amadou was with Sam Bockarie?

21 A. Just as he explained to me, sir.

22 Q. Is that, yes? Did Amadou see his brother killed?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. And when you said the children of Sam Bockarie, tell us  
25 what do you mean by Sam Bockarie's children? How were they  
26 involved?

27 A. Because Sam Bockarie had four children that I knew about.

28 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness kindly go  
29 back to those names?

1 MR KOUMJIAN:

2 Q. Sorry, Mr Witness, we are going to go back. When you say  
3 names, we really have to go slowly and I will try to spell them.  
4 So, do you know the names of Sam Bockarie's children? Actually,  
5 Mr Witness, unless your Honours need it, I don't need the names?

6 A. The first one is --

7 Q. Okay, you go on.

8 A. The first boy he was called Kopou[phon].

9 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Koumjian, that is not the  
10 clarification that the Presiding Judge and myself were seeking.  
11 There was a statement that the witness made that he was told that  
12 Benjamin - he was killed by - Sam Bockarie was killed by Benjamin  
13 Yeaten and his children. The ambiguity is in the phrase "his  
14 children". Whose children?

15 MR KOUMJIAN: That is what I am trying to clarify.

16 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Was it Yeaten's children, or was it Sam  
17 Bockarie's children that killed Sam Bockarie?

18 MR KOUMJIAN: I understand.

19 THE WITNESS: They were Sam Bockarie's children.

20 MR KOUMJIAN:

21 Q. What happened? When you say Sam Bockarie's children, how  
22 were they involved in these events?

23 A. He said because Sam Bockarie was not going to come to  
24 Monrovia and so the wife she will go and meet him at the border,  
25 like I stated what the brother and the sister said to me in  
26 Freetown.

27 Q. What did they say happened to Sam Bockarie's four children?

28 A. That is what I am still explaining to you. I said they  
29 killed them. After they shot the father and the mother, Sam



1 Bockarie's mother and the children they said they captured them,  
2 according to Amadou and Kadie. They were the two families of the  
3 two victims.

4 Q. Okay, thank you. Trying not to use the words "he" or  
5 "they", who killed the children of Sam Bockarie according to you?

6 A. I said Benjamin Yeaten. Benjamin Yeaten.

7 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Mr Witness, do you mind waiting for the  
8 interpretation to come through to you. You seem to be responding  
9 to the English translation.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay, I am sorry.

11 MR KOUMJIAN:

12 Q. So, Mr Witness, do I understand you to say that Amadou and  
13 Kadie told you that Sam Bockarie, Sam Bockarie's wife and his  
14 children were killed by Benjamin Yeaten?

15 A. What?

16 Q. Do I understand you correctly to say that Amadou and Kadie  
17 told you that Sam Bockarie, Sam Bockarie's wife and Sam  
18 Bockarie's children were all killed by Benjamin Yeaten?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You also mentioned Sam Bockarie's mother. How is the  
21 mother involved?

22 A. He said they drove all of them from Monrovia, because they  
23 were all in Monrovia at ELWA at the house where Sam Bockarie was  
24 living.

25 Q. What happened to Sam Bockarie's mother?

26 A. Amadou said his mother was killed by the same Benjamin  
27 Yeaten.

28 Q. Now, sir, did Amadou ever indicate to you whether he had  
29 any knowledge of why Benjamin Yeaten killed Sam Bockarie and his

1 family?

2 A. He said because of this Special Court so that they will  
3 destroy the evidence. That was why they killed his brother.

4 MR KOU MJIAN: Thank you, your Honour. This concludes my  
5 direct examination.

6 PRESIDING JUDGE: Thank you, Mr Koumjian. Mr Anyah, I  
7 think you are taking the cross-examination. Is that correct?

8 MR ANYAH: Yes, that is correct, your Honour.

9 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please proceed.

10 MR ANYAH: I do have a number of documents to hand out to  
11 the Court that I will use during my cross-examination. May I  
12 have a moment, please?

13 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes.

14 MR ANYAH: Thank you.

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Do, please. I have a picture that  
16 contains myself and Issa Sesay, but the Prosecution never  
17 presented that one.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE: Well don't worry about it, Mr Witness.  
19 We will see what happens.

20 MR ANYAH: Your Honour, if it please the Court, I wonder if  
21 the Court Officer could assist me with distributing these for the  
22 Bench?

23 MR ANYAH: Madam President, may I proceed?

24 MR ANYAH: Thank you.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE: Yes, please do so, Mr Anyah.

26 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ANYAH:

27 Q. Good afternoon, sir. Can you confirm that you hear me  
28 through the translator, Mr Keita?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. I am one of the attorneys for Mr Taylor. I will be asking  
2 you some questions, but before I do so I would like to ask that  
3 we agree that you will listen to my questions carefully and to  
4 the extent you do not understand anything I say you will ask me  
5 to repeat myself. Can we agree to that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can we also agree that you will allow me to complete my  
8 questions before you state your answer?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You were born on 10 October 1974, correct?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Can you tell us when you were born?

13 A. I was born 10 October 10 1972, not '74.

14 Q. Well, yesterday you told us you joined the army and you  
15 joined the army at the age of 17 and that was in 1990. Is that  
16 correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you just said now you were born in '72. True?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Are you presently married, Mr Keita?

21 A. I am married.

22 Q. And are you married to a woman by the name of Mariama?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And the maiden name would be Koniwa, correct?

25 A. No.

26 Q. Your wife is from Lower Bambara Chiefdom in Sierra Leone,  
27 correct?

28 A. Yes.

29 MR ANYAH: For the record, the spellings in question:

1 Mariama is spelt M-R - I am sorry, strike that. M-A-R-I-A-M-A  
2 and Lower Bambara Chiefdom, Lower L-O-W-E-R and Bambara  
3 BA-M-BA-R-A Chiefdom, Sierra Leone. While you were with --

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am sorry to interrupt, Mr Anyah, but  
5 you also mentioned a lady's maiden name.

6 MR ANYAH: Yes. The witness didn't acknowledge this, but  
7 for the record it is spelt K-O-N-I-W-A:

8 Q. Mr Keita, while you were in Sierra Leone in Buedu for the  
9 RUF, Sam Bockarie gave you a second wife, did he not?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You were at some point also married to a lady by the name  
12 of Jenemba, correct?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you have any children by a lady named Jenemba?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Do you have a son by the name of Abubaka Keita Jnr.?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who is the mother of Abubaka?

19 A. Abubaka --

20 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, could the witness repeat  
21 that area kindly?

22 PRESIDING JUDGE: The interpreter didn't hear. Please  
23 repeat, Mr Witness, the answer to the question asking who was the  
24 mother of this child.

25 THE WITNESS: The mother of the child is called Ouleleh.

26 MR ANYAH: I will attempt to spell it phonetically and that  
27 would be O-U-L-A-L-E-H. I am sorry, I will try again.

28 O-U-L-E-L-E-H:

29 Q. Do you have a daughter by the name of Jenemba Keita?

1 MR KOUMJIAN: Your Honour, I object on the grounds of  
2 relevance unless there is a showing why this witness would have  
3 to give the names of all his family in Court here.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: You have heard the objection, Mr Anyah.

5 MR ANYAH: Yes, I would respond that I believe on direct  
6 counsel did ask the witness about his family, at the time I  
7 believe the circumstances related to his move to Sierra Leone,  
8 whether he had a wife, whether he had children and whether at the  
9 time he was leaving that was a consideration for relocating from  
10 Liberia to Buedu.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE: I will allow the question.

12 MR ANYAH:

13 Q. Mr Witness, Mr Keita, do you have a daughter by the name of  
14 Jenemba Keita?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Now, we have --

17 JUDGE SEBUTINDE: Could you spell the first name, Jenemba,  
18 please?

19 MR ANYAH: Yes, Jenemba would be spelt J-E-N-E-M-B-A:

20 Q. You told us yesterday, Mr Keita, you joined the AFL, the  
21 Armed Forces of Liberia in 1990?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And at the time you joined the AFL you were based in  
24 Monrovia, is that correct?

25 A. No, Tubmanburg.

26 Q. And Tubmanburg is a county that is adjacent to Montserrado  
27 County where Monrovia is, correct?

28 A. Yes, closer to Monrovia.

29 Q. Now, at some point you said you left the AFL and you joined

1 the LUDF, true?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Before you joined the LUDF you did indeed engage in some  
4 fighting with the AFL, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And at the time in 1990 one of the warring factions in  
7 Liberia was the NPFL, true?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And NPFL you know to mean National Patriotic Front of  
10 Liberia, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. There were other warring factions fighting in Liberia in  
13 1990. For example there was a Liberia Peace Council, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And that was headed by a fellow named George Boley, true?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And for the record George regular spelling, Boley B-O-L-E-Y  
18 and it is actually Dr George E Boley Snr:

19 Q. In addition to the Liberia Peace Council and the NPFL there  
20 was also the INPFL, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the INPFL stood for Independent National Patriotic  
23 Front of Liberia, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that faction or warring group was headed by Prince  
26 Yormie Johnson, true?

27 A. Yes.

28 Q. And the NPFL we have spoken of was headed by Mr Charles  
29 Taylor, correct?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. So when you left the AFL, the Armed Forces of Liberia, you  
3 could have joined the NPFL if you wanted, correct?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. You could have joined the INPFL if you wanted, correct?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. You could have joined the Liberia Peace Council if you  
8 wanted, correct?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Are you telling the Court you were forced to join the LUDF?
- 11 A. The LUDF - when we crossed into Sierra Leone and that was  
12 where they founded the LUDF.
- 13 Q. But you had a choice whether or not to join the LUDF when  
14 you joined it, true?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And of all the other choices you had, you made that choice  
17 to join the LUDF, correct?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And the LUDF stands for Liberian United Democratic Front,  
20 true?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And one of the warring factions or enemies of the LUDF was  
23 Charles Taylor's NPFL, correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You were with the LUDF when it transformed or was  
26 transformed into ULIMO, true?
- 27 A. Yes.
- 28 Q. And ULIMO was formed in Sierra Leone, true?
- 29 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And ULIMO was armed and funded by the Sierra Leonean  
2 government, correct?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And again one of the warring factions against whom ULIMO  
5 fought was Charles Taylor's NPFL, isn't that true?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. You told us yesterday in 1994 ULIMO split into ULIMO-K and  
8 ULIMO-J. Do you recall that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And you went, or joined, or stayed on - strike that. You  
11 stayed on with ULIMO-K when the split occurred, is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And the K was for Alhaji Kromah, true?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Now Alhaji is a title you earn when you go to Mecca, Haji,  
16 right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And the initials before his name G V Koroma, correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. That is what you told us yesterday?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And the "V" in his name is for Varmuyan, is it not?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And Varmuyan is a Mandingo name, is it not?
- 25 A. Yes, it is a Mandingo name.
- 26 Q. And you are a Mandingo? You told us that yesterday,  
27 correct?
- 28 A. True, I am a Mandingo.
- 29 Q. And you have spoken a lot today about another Varmuyan,



1 Varmuyan Sherif. You recall that, do you not?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And Varmuyan Sherif is also a Mandingo, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And there is a brother to Varmuyan Sherif that you know  
6 named Sia[phon] Shari f, correct?

7 A. No, I don't know that one.

8 Q. Do you know of a brother to Varmuyan Sherif that was also a  
9 member of ULIMO?

10 A. No.

11 Q. So, you deny knowing any brother of Varmuyan Sherif that  
12 fought alongside --

13 A. No.

14 Q. May I finish my question, if you please. You deny knowing  
15 any brother of Varmuyan Sherif that fought alongside you in  
16 ULIMO? That is your testimony to this Court?

17 A. Yes, I don't know.

18 Q. You are related to Varmuyan Sherif, are you not?

19 A. I am not related to him.

20 Q. You told the Court that disarmament came I believe you said  
21 in late 1986, is that fair to say?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you have been in Court today when they have read some  
24 information about the Cotonou Accord in Benin Republic. Did you  
25 hear that today?

26 A. I listened to that today.

27 Q. And you are aware that before the government or the  
28 transitional government of Ruth Sando Perry, there were two  
29 previous transitional governments in the 1990 in Liberia?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The first one was after Cotonou and that was headed by  
3 somebody named David Kpomakpor. Do you recall that?

4 A. Yes.

5 MR ANYAH: And for the record Kpomakpor is spelt  
6 K-P-O-M-A-K-P-O-R:

7 Q. Now, after there was the - after the Cotonou Accord there  
8 was a ceasefire that included ULIMO in Liberia, was there not?

9 A. In which place?

10 Q. In 1993, after the Cotonou Accord, ULIMO agreed to a  
11 ceasefire with the other warring factions, did it not?

12 A. That happened.

13 Q. But the ceasefire did not hold for long, true?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you took up your arms again for ULIMO?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. There was another transitional government in Liberia that  
18 came out of an Abuja agreement in 1995, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that government was headed by Professor Wilton  
21 Sankawulo, do you remember that?

22 A. Yes.

23 MR ANYAH: And for the record Sankawulo is spelt  
24 S-A-N-K-A-W-U-L-O:

25 Q. Mr Keita, there was also another ceasefire promulgated or  
26 which took effect after the Abuja Accord, was there not?

27 A. Yes, it is true.

28 Q. But that ceasefire also did not hold for long, correct?

29 A. Yes.

1 Q. And you again picked up your arms and you fought for ULIMO,  
2 true?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And then there was the elections in 1997. Now, they asked  
5 you on direct examination whether you supported Alhaji Koroma  
6 during the elections and you said, "No". Do you recall that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When you said that to us you were mistaken or you were  
9 lying, true?

10 A. I never supported Alhaji Koroma to run any campaign for  
11 him.

12 MR ANYAH: If it please the Courts, I will direct the  
13 Chamber and my learned colleague to tab number 2 and specifically  
14 to page 26. The document from which I will be reading is a  
15 transcribed statement given to the Office of the Prosecutor by  
16 the witness on 30 June 2003. The ERN number for page 26 is  
17 00035071:

18 Q. Now, Mr Keita, on 30 June 2003 you met with Corinne Dufka  
19 of the Office of the Prosecutor and you had a conversation and  
20 what you said was transcribed, recorded and I will read some of  
21 that to you and ask you if you recall seeing this. (Your  
22 Honours, I will be reading from where it says "Corinne: Were you  
23 active in supporting Alhaji Koroma?") You were asked this  
24 question, question by Ms Dufka, "Were you active in supporting  
25 Alhaji Kromah's party during the 1997 Elections?" Mr Keita  
26 answers, "Oh, actually I was part of the party, but during the  
27 campaign time, I only used to save him only my car use to be up  
28 and down and they knew my car". "Your car was going up and down  
29 at that time?" Answer: "Yes". "So they might have known your

1 involvement as well?" Answer: Yes". Mr Keita, it is true, is  
2 it not, that when you spoke with Ms Dufka on 30 June 30 2003 you  
3 said you were part of Alhaji Koroma's party, true?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You were not - your testimony to this Court is that you  
6 were not a member, or played any role, in the All Liberian  
7 Coalition Party of Alhaji Koroma? Is that your testimony?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Well one of the opponents for Koroma in the 1997 elections  
10 was Charles Taylor, was it not?

11 A. That is true.

12 Q. And he was with the National Patriotic Party, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was with the Unity Party, a  
15 candidate herself, true?

16 A. And Charles Taylor won that election, did he not?

17 A. He won.

18 Q. And after he won Alhaji Koroma left for the Republic of  
19 Guinea, true?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And some of his supporters like yourself wished you could  
22 leave with him to Guinea, did you not?

23 A. No.

24 Q. The only reason you did not go to Guinea was because you  
25 did not have the funds to go to Guinea at that time?

26 A. No.

27 MR ANYAH: Your Honours, I would refer the Chamber if your  
28 Honours please to page 7 in tab 2.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: I am just keeping my eye on the time. If

1 it is a short question, please ask it. If it is going to be a  
2 very long convoluted one, we may need to wait.

3 MR ANYAH: I think I can complete it in two minutes.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE: Fine.

5 MR ANYAH: Page 7, the same tab I referred to before, tab  
6 2, the ERN number of the page in question is 00035052:

7 Q. Now, Mr Keita, this is what Ms Corinne Dufka recorded of an  
8 interview with you on 30 June 2003. (Your Honours, I will read  
9 from where it says, "Corinne:", question, "All right. And then  
10 what happened after the elections?") Question: "All right. And  
11 then what happened after the elections?" Mr Keita answers,  
12 "After the elections everybody began to go back by their own way  
13 because Koroma left from Liberia and flee into Guinea and then  
14 for us, some of us do not have the means to go to Guinea. As for  
15 me, I don't have the means to go to Guinea because my mother  
16 there, my uncle there. We were serving as Deputy Foreign Affairs  
17 Minister of the Liberian government --"

18 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honours, can the lawyer repeat his  
19 question?

20 MR ANYAH: Yes, I will do that.

21 THE INTERPRETER: Your question, sir [microphone not  
22 activated].

23 MR ANYAH: I could pick up tomorrow.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE: I think it would be best. I know the  
25 tape runs out, or will run out, and so in the circumstances we  
26 will have this question tomorrow, Mr Anyah. I know you haven't  
27 asked it yet and so --

28 MR ANYAH: Thank you, Madam President.

29 PRESIDING JUDGE: Just a moment, please. Mr Witness, we

1 will now be adjourning until 9:30 tomorrow morning.

2 THE WITNESS: Okay.

3 PRESIDING JUDGE: As before I will remind you of the oath  
4 and you are not to discuss your evidence, or what has happened,  
5 with anyone else until all your evidence is finished. Do you  
6 understand this?

7 THE WITNESS: Okay.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE: Please adjourn the Court.

9 [Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at 4.30  
10 p.m. to be reconvened on Thursday, 24 January  
11 2008 at 9:30 a.m.]

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

## I N D E X

### WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION:

ABU KEITA	1956
EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR KOUMJIAN	1956
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR ANYAH	2076